

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Another Castro Armed Robbery

by Dennis Conkin

A gay male couple say they barely rebuffed two would-be robbers, one of whom had a handgun, shortly after they left the Castro Street Fair Sunday, October 1. One of the victims also reported an assailant sliced him with a hunting knife during the attack.

David Crain told the *Bay Area Reporter* he and Bob Pitman were in the area of 15th and Noe at about 9:30 p.m. when the two men accosted them.

The assailants approached the gay couple from behind and demanded the pair turn over their wallets. According to Crane, one of the men pulled up his T-shirt to reveal that he was armed with a short-barreled handgun, and the other displayed a hunting knife in his waist band and drew it from its sheath.

"When I saw the guy with the gun, I knew that we would be shot if I gave him my wallet," Crain recalled.

Crain said he ran to a car that was passing less than 15 feet from the incident and asked the driver to stop and help, but she refused — and in fact, sped off with his hand still on her car's window ledge.

"I was spun to the ground and landed on my left side," he said.

Crain said that he instinctively put his hand up to ward off a knife strike as the assailant with a knife lunged at him, but the assailant managed to slice him in the elbow and kick him.

Crain would not give up, however, and he called out as another car drove by for the driver to stop and help him.

"He was very frightened, and he looked at me and said, 'I'm sorry but I can't stop,' and sped on. He was a gay man," Crain said.

He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that after the second

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Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

All's Fair

Thousands turned out for the annual Castro Street Fair on Sunday, Oct. 1. The heat guaranteed a flesh feast that was enjoyed by all, as bods like the one above were a common sight during the always packed festivities.

October is Our History Month

by Mary Ann Swissler

Perhaps it was the O.J. Simpson verdict; in any case, something prevented the national media from notifying most of America that the second annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual History Month began Sunday. Started in 1994 by Missouri high school history teacher Rodney Wilson [see *This Week in Gay History*, page 13], this year's History Month features dozens of exhibits, talks, meetings and other commemorations and historical perspectives into the gay, lesbian and bisexual experience.

Here are a few events scheduled for the Bay Area:

Pulp fiction

Lesbian historian Lyndell McCowan has pieced together an exhibit of over 100 examples of gay and lesbian literature, which will be on display at the Harvey Milk Memorial Library through October. The pieces of fiction covering the years 1915 through the present were taken from her personal collection, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, and some of the 5,000 books in the Barbara Grier Collection of the Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library. Last year's presentation at the Harvey

Continued on page 22

'94 GOPs Gave TVC \$35,000

Implications may help Hamilton Square defendants

by Marghe Covino

A study of records at the California Office of Charitable Trusts last week revealed that in October of 1994, the State Republican Party gave a \$35,000 contribution to the Traditional Values Coalition, a non-profit corporation headed by Louis P. Sheldon.

What's more, a search of Republican Party mandatory filings at the Secretary of State's office indicates that the Republican Party did not report the donation.

The only report that mentioned

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Rally Saturday To Support Gay Teachers

by Dennis Conkin

Openly lesbian and gay teachers and parents, teacher's union officials, supporters of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and other activists will hold a rally on Saturday, October 7 at Harvey Milk Plaza in support of two San Francisco teachers who face the loss of their teaching credentials.

The Everett Middle School teachers could be stripped of their credentials to teach in California because of a parent's complaint

that the teachers allowed classroom speakers from a lesbian and gay anti-violence group to provide sixth grade students with allegedly explicit descriptions of gay sex.

Bernal Heights carpenter Bruce Budnick, the father of Alice Budnick, who is now a high school student, filed the complaint against the teachers with the state teacher's commission.

One of the speakers about whom Budnick complained told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the April 1992 class was the third class he and a co-speaker had

addressed that day. He dismissed as "blatant lies" claims that he told students that he wanted to have oral sex with sailors, and said there was "nothing out of the ordinary about the class presentation that day."

"We speak about our own experiences as lesbians and gay people," he said. "I talk about how I came out, how I told my parents and friends, what kinds of discrimination I've faced."

If questions about sex are asked, the speaker said, they are answered in language that is

appropriate.

"We don't use slang. If someone asks how we have sex, I say in the same way that heterosexuals have. By hugging and kissing and showing caring and trying to make our partners feel good. Oral sex, which is mouth-to-penis and anal sex, penis-to-anus," he said.

The speaker said that lesbian speakers from the program would answer questions about lesbian sex practices in the same factual manner.

Continued on page 13

Gay Log Cabin Republicans Log On at State Convention

by Karen Ocamb

A little bit of history was etched on California's political map Saturday, September 30 when the gay Log Cabin Republican Club held its first-ever workshop at the state Republican Party convention in Palm Desert.

For an hour and a half there was an oasis of political moderation and inclusion within a party that, by the conclusion of its convention, voted to repeat the anti-gay, anti-abortion policies advocated in 1992.

But the Log Cabin Club had a

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▼ Community Dental Update ▼



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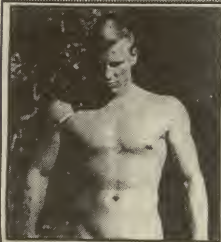
your gums. Roll the brush away from your gums. Hold your brush vertically to reach behind the front teeth and while using the same wiggling motion, roll your brush forward and out of your mouth, and it is easiest to brush a few teeth at a time.

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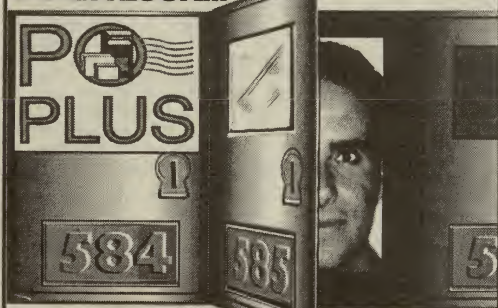


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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Rick Gerharter

Moving Memorial

The clergy at All Saints' Episcopal Church on Waller St. in the Haight dedicated a shrine Sept. 29 to St. Michael the Archangel in their church's garden as a memorial to their many parishioners who have died of AIDS. During the service a list of all those who've died was read, and mementos of loved ones were placed at the shrine.

Gay San Franciscan's 'Perfect' Poem Is Moving on BART

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man's poem that explores the grief and pain of losing a lover to AIDS is one of the first poems to be seen by tens of thousands of daily passengers in the recently inaugurated Bay Area Rapid Transit "Poetry In Transit" program.

"Passenger," a moving poem by the acclaimed San Francisco poet Edgar Poma, appears in 100 BART cars throughout the system, BART special projects spokesman Jim McGrath told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

According to McGrath, Poma's poem was unanimously chosen by the judges of the poetry project, which was started in July by Bay Area resident and Poet Laureate of the United States, Robert Haas.

"Of 264 entries submitted in the first cycle, 'Passenger' was the one poem that every one of the four judges agreed on. Everyone walked into the room and said 'I've found the perfect poem'—and it turned out to be 'Passenger,'" McGrath told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The BART poetry project is funded internally by BART, which is donating hundreds of advertis-

ing card slots on trains throughout the system. Eller Media Corporation, formerly Patrick, donated the graphics for the project, according to McGrath.

Poma's poetry has appeared in a variety of venues—including the *San Francisco Chronicle*—and the poet-playwright says that his poem came to him after he wondered how he would cope if his lover of a decade, Rodney Wong, died of AIDS.

"I've been in a relationship for ten years now, and although Rodney and I are healthy, I always have that 'what if...?' question in the back of my mind: like what would I do if I lost him to AIDS? What would happen if he lost me to the disease? And after I started thinking of this stuff, the poem just came to me," Poma, 36, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Poma, who calls himself a "California farmboy who happens to live in San Francisco," was born and raised in Walnut Grove, a small town in the delta of the Sacramento River.

Although BART is not a traditional poetry outlet, many local transit agencies feature poetry and reproductions of art on buses and passenger vehicles.

"A friend called me the other day and said she read my poem when she looked up from her newspaper and saw it between the 16th Street and 24th Street stations [in San Francisco]. That's a great feeling, that poetry could be conveyed in a medium other than on paper or at an open mike," Poma said.

"Usually when I'm on a BART train and look up at one of the panels, I expect to read an HMO advertising—not a HOMO love poem," he said.

Poma says he wanted to accomplish several goals with the poem—including making "insulated suburban business executives" on a crowded commuter train "a captive audience."

"But at the same time," he said, "I think poetry in BART trains is a great way for people to stop and think about how their own lives can relate to a poet's feelings."

"I don't see the poems as a purely educational thing. I think straight people in the Bay Area in general are sophisticated about gay culture and ideas."

"I hope that 'Passenger' takes them to another level and makes them explore their feelings about the universals like loss and vulnerability and love," Poma said. ▼

Shriver to leave Mobilization?

by Bob Roehr

Mike Shriver, executive director of San Francisco's Mobilization Against AIDS, reportedly will leave that organization to become public policy director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) in Washington, DC.

Shriver is believed to have submitted his letter of resignation to the MAA board of directors earlier this week, giving them two months notice of his departure. He will start the new position in January.

NAPWA spokesman Troy Petenbrink would only confirm to the *B.A.R.* that they are

"negotiating a possible position for Mike here at NAPWA," but "have not reached an agreement yet on anything."

Mobilization phones were on a recording Wednesday morning, and Shriver did not return a message left on his answering machine by press deadline. ▼

Come out for OUT LOUD and IGLHRC

After taking a prominent role at last month's U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing, the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission is determined to maintain the level of organizing and networking begun in China.

Toward that end the group has released a fundraising compact disc compilation called *OUT LOUD*, which will go on sale October 11, National Coming Out Day. Featured artists who contributed previously unreleased songs to the disc include U2, Indigo Girls, BETTY, Throwing Muses, Everything But the Girl, Billy Bragg, and

others. In keeping with the spirit of IGLHRC, the musicians are drawn from a truly international roster.

IGLHRC will hold a fundraiser/sale for *OUT LOUD* next Wednesday at Tower Records, located at 2280 Market Street, starting at 7 p.m. Melissa Perrick and the Gretchen Phillips Experience will both perform live at the special event.

The disc is only \$12.99, and the party at Tower is free. Call (415) 255-8660 for more information. ▼

— Mary Ann Swissler



Photo: Rick Gerhartner

Boy+Boy Sees Red

Some 20 Boy+Boy activists picketed the local office of the American Red Cross Oct. 3 to protest recent actions by ACR President Elizabeth Dole to "tone down" and alter the content of that organization's HIV prevention program. She objected to the drawing of a penis in a handout on condoms. The picket caught the attention of local chapter CEO Roger Dickson, who agreed to inform the national office about the protest but refused to write a letter to Mrs. Dole about the matter.

SF GOP Takes ACT UP/SF to Court Today

by Dennis Conkin

A preliminary hearing will be held in Department 11 of Municipal Court this morning (Thursday, October 5) at 9:30 for four ACT UP/San Francisco members charged with felony vandalism in a July 11 attack against the local Republican Party Central Committee headquarters.

The hearing will determine whether there is enough evidence to charge the activists with felonies related to property damage stemming from the incident.

In the July 11 incident, four activists invaded the Van Ness Ave. headquarters of the San Francisco GOP, hung effigies of Senator Jesse Helms, California Attorney General Dan Lungren, and Governor Pete Wilson from a balcony, and splashed oil-based paint on walls and office equip-

ment, including computers and a printer.

Property damage of more than \$5,000 is a state felony - and damage estimates will determine whether the activists will face municipal trial or felony prosecution by District Attorney Arlo Smith.

Gay Republican activist Chris Bowman told the *Bay Area Reporter* the damages estimates are central to the case - and reiterated that Republican party estimates are more than the amount needed to charge the crime as a felony.

"Our estimates of the damages are between \$7,000 and \$8,000 dollars. Their individual attorneys are trying to dispute the amount," Bowman said.

"We spent more than ten days repainting the office."

Bowman also said the Republican headquarters planned

to vacate the premises as soon as another location could be found.

"We plan to move soon for security reasons. There's just no way to defend this place," Bowman said.

He said that the Central Committee is still intent upon "full restitution" for the damages, and wanted restraining orders against each of the defendants as part of any probation.

"We just want them to stay away," he said.

Bowman said that SF Log Cabin President Steve Fong and others had received threatening phone calls related to the incident.

"But we're moderates," he said. "We have nothing to do with Jesse Helms, and we fight that element of our party tooth and nail and every step of the way. They just don't seem to understand that." ▼

Public Forum Held To Air Pacific Center Staff Grievances

by Mary Ann Swissler

About 100 people turned out in Oakland Sunday, October 1, either to resolve long-standing conflicts between the board of directors and staff of the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley, or to elect an entirely new board.

No decision was made by presstime, but parties from both sides told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the public airing attracted sufficient community members to bring about a future resolution.

"There was a lot of community support for another meeting," said Thelma Garza, Director of Volunteer Services. Garza and staff members have complained that the lack of a long-range fundraising plan by the board of directors threatens the longterm stability of the 22-year-old Pacific Center.

"Communication has virtually broken down between the board and the staff," said Garza. She acknowledged that services continue at the centers unabated.

Currently, the Telegraph Avenue facility specializes in low-cost psychotherapy for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender

community in the East Bay. Board President and Interim Executive Director Robert Fuentes estimated that Pacific Center sees 300 people annually in a clinical setting, and answers 5,000 phone calls annually on its sexual minority switchboard, at their Berkeley, Walnut Creek and Redwood City centers. The Berkeley center holds approximately 20 peer support groups along with a number of 12-step and recovery groups.

At Sunday's meeting, staff again called for the resignation of the entire board, to be replaced by undisclosed individuals. Fuentes commented to the *B.A.R.* afterwards, "It was very clear that there were two different opinions about how to deal with the financial situation at the Pacific Center." The board, he said, is not going to resign, partly because the Pacific Center would cease to exist as a legal entity, and also because it disagrees with the staff's opinion about mismanagement. Fundraising efforts have been vigorous and ongoing, Fuentes told the *B.A.R.*

"I personally am saddened that we are both, essentially, at each

other's throats," spending energy on infighting rather than on providing services with the Pacific Center's annual \$320,000 operating budget, he said. "They may think they have community support, but it's the board that decides how to dump itself," Fuentes remarked. The by-laws would have to be changed to alter this policy of voluntary resignations, he said.

Garza told the *Bay Area Reporter* that such a change in the by-laws might come about when the anticipated community support materializes. The biggest accomplishment from the meeting, she said, is that the community was informed about details of the problem. People found out, she said, "that we need their help, and they have expressed a very enthusiastic response to getting involved."

"There were a number of professionals there who were willing to come on board." ▼

The next meeting date was set as Sunday, November 5. For more information call (510) 548-8283.

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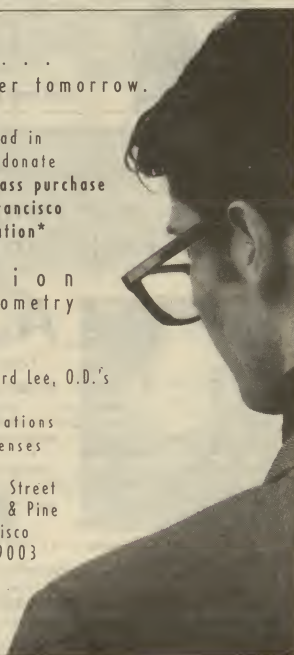
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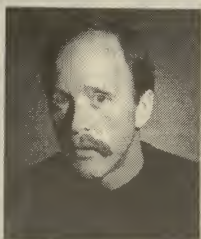
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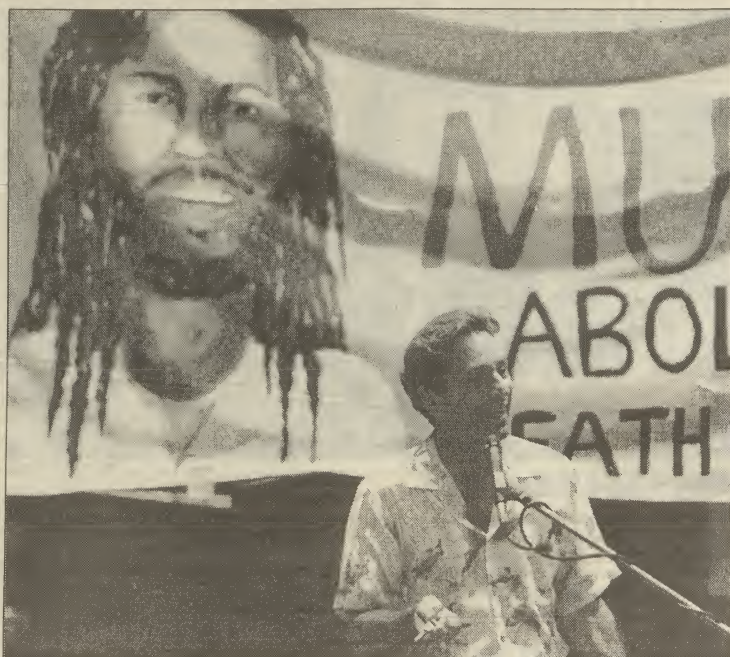
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Say No To Death

SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano spoke out at a rally at the Women's Building Oct. 1 to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, the African-American activist and journalist who was convicted of killing a Philadelphia policeman and who recently won a stay of execution.

HUD To Hear E. Bay PWA Housing Complaint

by Mary Ann Swissler

Three Berkeley men with AIDS say they have edged closer to getting a fair housing complaint investigated by the San Francisco regional office of Housing and Urban Development.

Earl Baldock, Michael Tinker, and John Iversen filed a complaint late last May after the Berkeley City Council turned down Rose House, a housing project for PWAs. The city responded to community outcry when Rose Street failed to pass a council vote, by setting up an AIDS Housing Task Force with a \$500,000 allotment. Those recommendations are expected out by December, but AIDS housing organizers remain skeptical that

they can deliver a useful product to PWAs in need of housing.

Berkeley-based Housing Rights Advocates Director Mary Ann Wallace said, "What they're shooting for is maybe some units scattered all over the city of Berkeley. An important part of the project on Rose Street was that it would have had services attached to it." She pointed out that a Rose House-type facility would prevent public health nurses — who would ultimately have to be hired to support AIDS housing — from wasting too much time getting from site to site.

Wallace observed that the city of Berkeley would end up allocating just as much or even more than the \$40,000 requested by Resources for Community

Development for the Rose Street house. The city council claimed that the \$800,000 price tag was the reason for turning the project down.

HUD spokesman John Phillips told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "An attempt would be made to conciliate the differences" at a future meeting. "If that fails and an investigation continues, and HUD finds in favor of plaintiffs, then both parties can go before an administrative law judge or federal district court."

According to Iversen, if the plaintiffs win they will demand full implementation of a Rose Street-type house. "We want a ten-person supportive home in Berkeley for people with AIDS," he told the *B.A.R.* ▼

Prick up your ears Free Acupuncture for PWAs

by Mary Ann Swissler

Acupuncture to the ear has become so popular among San Francisco people with HIV/AIDS that a local clinic began offering it for free yesterday, just to cut its year-long waiting list.

Howard Moffett, director of the HIV Program at The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, explained, "In the past we have had to wait-list these people and that's not very helpful. People have had to wait up to a year to receive acupuncture, and this is unacceptable."

The number of HIV/AIDS agency case workers who have referred clients for ear acupuncture at ACTCM has increased since it began receiving funding through the city Department of Public Health AIDS Office and Ryan White funding, Moffett said. The city, he told the *B.A.R.*, has

plans to expand these services, but at this point that's all they are. With the new service, scheduled for Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and noon, beginning October 4, ACTCM acupuncturists will treat up to 20 people at a time.

"All persons with HIV are welcome to drop in, receive free acupuncture, learn about Chinese medicine and HIV, and get support for living with HIV," he said.

The acupuncture focused just on the ears works by inducing a state of deep relaxation, very much like yoga or meditation. Moffett said when the needles are inserted into key points of the body they stimulate the parasympathetic nerve system; this essentially "resets" the body, helping to cleanse out the buildup of toxins from the cocktail of medications that HIV/AIDS clients are frequently prescribed, he said.

The importance of this passive

treatment for people with HIV/AIDS cannot be overstated, he said. "Retroviral [medications] work on the virus," he said, "but what are we doing to take care of the body? What do we have to strengthen and nourish the body?"

With the ear acupuncture treatments, said Moffett, "We have seen an alleviation of symptoms common to HIV: fatigue, headaches, abdominal pain, nausea, and swollen lymph glands." Plus, clients report that they feel much better, which in turn allows them to enjoy life.

Ear acupuncture has also been effectively used to control substance abuse with one program in place at the County Jail. ▼

The College is located on Potrero Hill at 450 Connecticut Street in San Francisco. For more information call (415) 282-9603.

ACRC Recalls, Celebrates, Plans

by Marv. Shaw

The AIDS Community Research Consortium's HIV Clinical Research Center, situated in the center of Redwood City, recently used a \$75,000 capital grant from AmFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) to expand its quarters, remodel the layout to be more efficient, redecorate, and furnish much-needed equipment, such as a freezer and a centrifuge. With treatment rooms, communication facilities, and plentiful office space, the headquarters is now much better prepared to accommodate its enlarged service area.

About 100 supporters, well-wishers, and staff gathered at the newly expanded and renovated facility Thursday, September 28 to celebrate its completion and the development of its functions; inspect the improvements; recognize those most responsible for the operation's success; and acknowledge the history of the effort and the probabilities for ACRC's future.

In its eight-year history, ACRC has conducted treatment trials on a great variety of new drugs for the treatment of HIV-infected patients —

the number of which has grown from six per year to 29. Santa Cruz County has joined San Mateo and Santa Clara as ACRC participants, and according to Executive Director Michael Edell, both Salinas and Monterey counties have shown interest in participating. The motto of the organization from its beginning has been "Outreach, Research, Education," and as Edell pointed out, the need is greater than ever, because of the rate of infection is increasing among women, people of color, young gay men, and intravenous drug users.

'Out of the Ivory tower'

Among the speakers at the ceremony was Rich Gordon, now a member of the San Mateo County Board of Education and one of the founders of the San Mateo County AIDS Program. He said, "This facility has brought research out of the ivory tower and into the community. Also, it is an ongoing symbol of hope." Gordon traced the derivation of that word to the Old English "hopp," which meant "to leap up" in expectation.

Both Edell and the event's featured speaker, Dr. Mervyn Silverman, pointed out ACRC's success at improving doctor-

patient relationships; dependent on both patient cooperation and expert medical research, this reciprocal arrangement has led to an unprecedented degree of mutual effort, one in which the patient is much more involved as initiator and even director, and the physician is guided by the patient's responses to treatment. The doctor is enriched by the data the patient provides; AIDS treatment gains from the results of the one-to-one ongoing effort.

As Silverman pointed out, "This developed integrated treatment and research has broken down barriers in health promotion and projected a pattern that could influence medical practice immensely by changing and improving the management of care." Silverman, the former director of the San Francisco Health Department and current AmFAR president who was directly instrumental in securing the capital grant that brought about the improvement in the facility, also shared a slogan that he said encompasses the best ways to increase the probability of maintaining any patient's comparatively healthful life: "My four C's: cooperation, collaboration,

communication, compassion."

The last speaker on the program was one of the founders of ACRC, Dr. Stan Deresinski, who speculated that in the future the facility would continue to provide vital research, probably toward the pragmatic goal of finding the medical means to handle AIDS as a chronic but manageable disease, much as diabetes has come to be treated. ▼


For more information on the agency and its functions, contact ACRC at 1048 El Camino Real, Redwood City CA 94063, or call (415) 364-6563.

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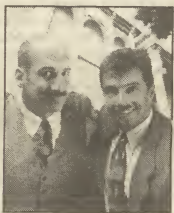
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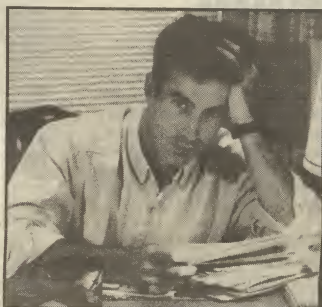
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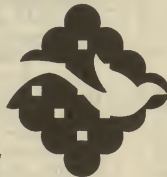
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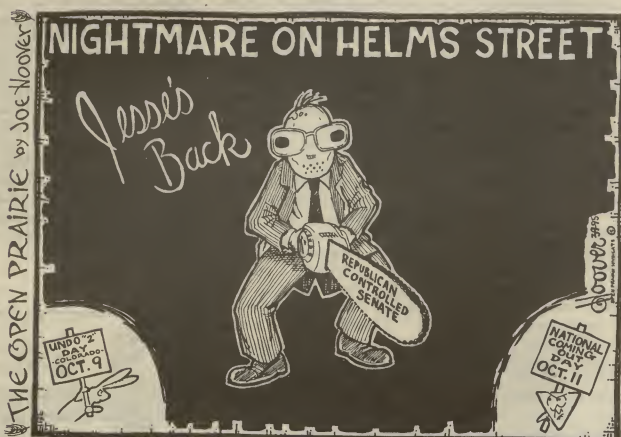
OPEN FORUM

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CARTOON



EDITORIAL

Out for Good

The forces of the right wing, like all bullies, depend upon intimidation for power. They try to intimidate people who live in the closet by vilifying those who don't, hoping to silence through fear. Which just makes it more important for everyone to break down their closet doors and come out for National Coming Out Day Wednesday, October 11.

At the risk of sounding chronocentric, this NCOD is more important than ever, now that gay civil rights are under attack and under review across America. Courts are gearing up to hear the Amendment 2 and Able cases, and the decisions, unfortunately, may depend to some extent on how visible gay people make themselves from now until they are reached. Principles like equality should not depend on numbers (which are debatable, anyway), but the jurists' decisions whether to grant them will be made in this imperfect world, not a vacuum.

So if you wonder if it is worth it to come out, we heartily suggest it. Many people say the act makes your mind clearer, your relationships more honest, and your sense of self-worth greater. We don't make any guarantees, except to say that the more gay Americans who make their voices heard, the better our chance of prevailing.

Come out: if not for yourself, then for your country.

To return, for a moment, to the courts: although there are many reasons to be angry at Bill Clinton, having our existence debated in the courts is a reminder that the radical right wingers running for the White House must be stopped. There's no doubt that Robert Bork could win confirmation to the Supreme Court if nominated today, and no reason to believe he would not be nominated if Pat Buchanan or Phil Gramm had the power to do so. Considering that Bork is donating time as legal counsel for Cincinnati's version of Amendment 2, it's pretty obvious how he would rule when that question came before him on the bench.

The next president will affect judicial rulings of the next 20 years, at least. We have no idea whom Colin Powell would nominate to the

bench; if he seriously runs for the presidency, and if any readers are serious about supporting him, that question must be answered. But it's obvious after a moment's consideration that the Supreme Court is not something to be entrusted to the GOP these days. No one should put the future in the hands of the past.

Speaking of the future, it seems to be shrinking these days. As we reported a few weeks ago, the controversial new San Francisco group Invention is attempting to reinforce some basic assumptions about life and the future for HIV-negative gay men, by reminding them that life doesn't necessarily, automatically, end in HIV disease and death. Now we wonder if a larger program might not be in order, to remind the rest of America that life doesn't necessarily and automatically end with right wing domination and deterioration.

The comparison may sound glib at first, but isn't there a parallel between gay men sacrificing their future health, and America sacrificing its future healthcare? What's the difference between giving into the potentially deadly but undeniably attractive temptation of unprotected sex, and giving into environmental regression - with all those health implications - for profit? Neither would be thinkable in an optimistic society, but pessimism is what the GOP contracted to bring America - and on that, at least, it can deliver.

The malaise Jimmy Carter spoke about has reappeared, spreading quickly through a society whose collective immune system has been weakened by constant attacks by everyone from H. Ross Perot to G. Gordon Liddy. But malaise, like intimidation, can be fought by simply reaffirming your own worth as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender American. Not to quote the *Desiderata* or anything, but you have a right to be here. Remember: a right to be here, today and tomorrow and next year.

And if you've never taken your rightful place before, front and center and far from the closet, treat yourself to it this National Coming Out Day. Take that step forward and you'll never go back. ▼

GUEST OPINION

Another View of Castro and 18th

by Paul Langley

I'm dismayed that many in the community think chain stores are somehow bad. Walgreen's supplies drugs and lots of other things at 1/3 to 1/2 the cost charged by some non-chain stores. We are all consumers, and competition brings down prices and benefits us all. When does a small businessperson become an evil chain? Are Headlines, or my tenants, Escape from N.Y. Pizza and Spinelli's, bad because they have more than one outlet?

I am also dismayed that the city government wants to create a monopolistic situation to benefit some businesses, by eliminating competition. Does the city suggest I discriminate against straight gay-friendly business people? If so, logically, it should also fix prices. Some of the clothes, books, hamburgers, drinks, lubricant, haircuts, etc. sold in the Castro are outrageously priced. Why should I have to pay \$25 and up for a haircut in the Castro, when my haircuts cost \$4 elsewhere in California?

I bought the building at Castro & 18th Street in 1974 when the second floor was mostly vacant and most of the building's systems were condemned. The purchase at the time was regarded as highly risky, particularly for me as I had no money, and financing was unavailable for old commercial buildings. I finally obtained loans from a gay banker, the late Don Penniman, to rehabilitate the building, and moved my real estate office into the building shortly thereafter.

Most of my salespeople were gay and I trained them myself. I often assisted them with loans and otherwise helped them get their lives together. Over the decades, I've helped dozens of gay and lesbian professional and business people advance, flourish, and reach their potential. Another goal was to encourage gay businesses and people to move to the Castro, to give the gay community an area and focus of its own. I searched for gay tenants for 500 Castro, and Fred Rogers and David Delucca and I worked out plans for the Elephant Walk, which they opened in the mid '70s.

The Elephant Walk Bar is not closing October 1, 1995; it is remaining open until 1996.

The Elephant Walk is not being leased to a fast food chain or any other chain. The rent at the Elephant Walk has been \$6,000 throughout the lease's duration, and is where it is now as a result of litigation by Michael Verdone, owner of the bar, who demanded \$2,289,382 of me through his lawyers for a December 2, 1988 fire at the building. As a result of the fire, the fire department immediately condemned the building and declared it unsafe to enter. The insurance underwriters demanded the roof be removed, lest it collapse the building into the street. Mr. Verdone claimed in court that the Elephant Walk could have reopened in 60 to 90 days after the fire and that I should have put a tent over the building to protect it from the rain. He ignored the fact that none of the utilities could have been turned on, including the gas, without blowing up the building and the neighborhood. Contractors testified on my behalf that the city would not allow a tent to cover the building, as the poles would be in the middle of the street and a tent would collapse the remaining shell anyway from the weight of the rain. That litigation caused me years of grief and nearly \$200,000 in legal fees. Also, my insurance was \$350,000 short of covering repairs, and I have still not recovered from these losses.

Since where I live seems to be an issue, I've maintained a residence in San Francisco since 1965 (except for a short interlude in '91-'92 when I had to sleep on a sofa bed at my office to pay off debts incurred by the fire). I live in the same house near Buena Vista Park which I acquired in 1974. I've never lived in Los Angeles. On the other hand, the owner of the Elephant Walk, Michael Verdone, is a millionaire who lives - under another first name, with his wife and kids - in San Mateo. His interest in the Elephant Walk bar is strictly financial, and he is hardly the person the gay community should be rallying around as a defender of gay symbols.

Lastly, were you in the Elephant Walk over the past 12 months? Why is the Elephant Walk often empty at night? Harvey Milk thanked me for providing a place where gay people could sit out in the open in front of windows with their friends, so that all could see that we are not monsters. So why aren't you there at the Elephant Walk? Maybe for you it's just a passé symbol, history, no longer important, just a place to walk by.

I asked Mr. Verdone Sept. 27 whether he would sell the Elephant Walk name and he said he would not. If he were truly interested in gay symbols, he would donate the name to members of the gay community to be used as they saw fit. He has offered me the current rent for the next five years, but he has occupied the space for ten years. Perhaps it's time to give someone else a chance at that location. ▼

LETTERS

Mayor to Mayor

[The following letter was sent to Jack Geraghty, Mayor of Spokane:]

I am writing to voice my dismay over the comments made by Spokane County Coroner, Dr. Dexter Amend, regarding the death of nine-year-old Rachel Carver. His comments are disturbing, as there was no basis for them. While the senseless murder of a young child is horrible in itself, his remarks concerning homosexual people and AIDS contribute to prejudice against those who have historically been forced to endure hate violence and discrimination because of ignorance.

As Mayor of a city that possesses a large population of gay, lesbian, and HIV infected citizens, I know first-hand of the violence and bigotry to which these groups are unjustly subjected. Teaching tolerance and compassion is the only solution available for the prevention of future hate crimes. Dr. Amend's comments accomplished nothing except to fuel continued violence and discrimination.

Accordingly, I fully support any actions taken by your office and the Spokane Human Rights Commission to ensure that this type of misinformation is stopped.

Frank M. Jordan
Mayor, San Francisco

Testy, testy

In your front page UPI story of the September 21 B.A.R. you state that India has developed a test to detect the human immunodeficiency virus and call it an AIDS test. Since the test for detecting HIV is very complicated and expensive, it's unlikely that India developed a "10-second HIV test" but more likely a new antibody test to replace the ELISA and Western Blot.

Neither the ELISA nor the Western Blot test are "HIV tests." They are tests for antibodies to HIV. When a positive antibody test for HIV is followed by a test for the actual virus, which it rarely is, the virus seldom can be found, yet the patient is labeled infectious. (If you have polio antibodies, which we all do, but no polio virus present, do you have polio?) The most researchers can find in searching for HIV in antibody-positive patients are a few viral particles, notably P-24 antigen, a protein associated with HIV but also found in MS patients as well as perfectly healthy people with negative antibody tests. Even the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test has only been able to detect one gene in HIV particles.

There is no such thing as an "AIDS test." There are only tests for antibodies. All of these tests, including the viral load test, are based on viral proteins, not the complete virus, which German virologist Stefan Lanka claims has never been isolated.

The Australian research team of Eleopolous, Turner and Padimitriou ("Is a Positive Western Blot Test Proof of HIV Infection?" *BioTechnology*, 6/93) document dozens of other viruses, proteins, drugs and antibodies, including malaria, candida, semen antibodies and pregnancy, that can cross-react with the ELISA and Western Blot tests. Since sections of India fall into the Asian malaria belt, that may account for India's rise in positive antibody tests.

While the misinformed UPI story is another typical example of Science by Press Conference, I would hope the B.A.R. would at least correct the terminology in reporting the story. There is enough confusion, fear and despair in our community as a result of the homophobic Corporate Media's irresponsible HIV/AIDS journalism without our own gay press contributing to it.

Don Eike
Berkeley

Testy, testy #2

It is totally unacceptable that the B.A.R. continues to be silent on the antibody test scandal. Word of mouth is getting around, and your newspaper is losing its reputation. Many people are aware now that you should be covering this issue but continue not to.

History will not forgive the gay presses first.

You all are just UPI mimics, and UPI is corrupt.

Where does that leave our uninformed suffering brothers?

Karma will be your sentence!

G. Martinez
San Rafael

Expired Passport

My God, what a mixed bag was Macy's Passport 95: the dinner-time generosity of Absolut, Mondavi, et al. — the discomfort of the bleacher seats and the warehouse surroundings as we sat for the better part of an hour waiting for the program to start — the unpretentious grace of Greg Louganis — the puerile caterwauling which greeted every display of beefcake — the enduring elegance of Oleg Cassini — but in most of the program, a rare blend of fatuity and bad taste equaled only by certain Benetton ads — the worthy causes which redeemed it all. And afterwards, in the parking area, an ill-mannered mob scene of limousines which vividly illustrated how far that vehicle has fallen in the American class hierarchy.

My advice: for a fashion show created with true

San Francisco flair, rely on the Ballet Auxiliary. And for an elegant evening with smartly-dressed gay men and women, you're better off at the Alliance banquet or at Oscars night with the Academy of Friends.

John Newmeyer
San Francisco

Finger fun

It would be useful to have a hand signal that means "I'm lesbian/gay-friendly, and I think you may be too." For example, when you're driving behind someone who has a rainbow bumper sticker, and then you pass them, you could smile as you pass and give them the lesbian/gay-friendly sign to acknowledge their sticker. Or when you exchange smiles with someone on the street or on the beach, you might make a sign to amplify the meaning of your smile.

American Sign Language has one sign to mean gay and one for lesbian. But they're slightly complicated, and I also think that a single gay/lesbian sign would be preferable. I would propose using the American Sign Language sign for the letter "L," which could stand for the lesbian/gay symbol lambda. It's very easy to make, and it looks like a printed L. You raise your right hand in a fist, point your index finger up, and point your thumb toward your left, so that the person you're facing sees an uppercase L.

I remember how widely the V sign caught on in the '60s as a peace symbol. Shall we start a new worldwide trend?

Gary Green
Berkeley

Immune realities

Matthew Sharp's article, "Borrowing an immune system" (Sept. 7), was a refreshing improvement over the usual toxic drug treatment policies that members of ACT UP usually support. Gee, an ACT UP member is actually supporting the idea of treating AIDS as an immune deficiency problem. Such an idea is hardly original. People working in the alternative healing field have been advocating this approach for over 10 years. Where has Mr. Sharp been the last decade?

But, while Mr. Sharp is breaking new ground for an ACT UP member, he still could not break free from one old ACT UP bad habit. Sadly, after finding the right road for a change, he made the mistake of asking the AIDS doctors for advice (big mistake). In response, the AIDS doctors told him they are doing research in this area, which Mr. Sharp outlined in detail in his article, and basically told him that they need more research funding to enable them to make some sort of breakthrough in AIDS treatment. I guess Mr. Sharp can now be expected to go out and beat the political drums for more research funding (profits) for the AIDS establishment.

If only Mr. Sharp had asked some alternative health practitioners about how to treat immune deficiency problems, his article may have been of more use to the gay community. If he had asked such questions, he would have learned that medical doctors and alternative health practitioners have known for over 40 years how to successfully treat immune deficiency problems. There are at least a dozen well-tested, successful immune deficiency treatment programs available for use right now.

But I guess the concept of treating AIDS as an immune deficiency problem, and advocating using currently available and effective methods to treat AIDS patients, is just too radical a concept for an ACT UP member to swallow all at one time. But it seems there is hope for the future.

Richard A. McCain
Richmond, CA

SFAF history

As a queer former employee of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, I am not surprised by the agency's relationship with the anti-gay Salvation Army, nor by Pat Christen's insufficient and bureaucratic response to Dennis Conkin's questions. SFAF's decision to approach the Salvation Army to provide catering services for the Thanksgiving Dinner is only the latest in a series of heterosexist actions by the management of an agency growing increasingly estranged from the queer community. Some examples:

For years, SFAF paid over \$150 per month for health insurance for heterosexual employees' spouses while offering nothing to partners of lesbian, gay, and bisexual employees. Pat Christen continually dismissed claims of inequity, insisting that she was "doing everything possible" to obtain domestic partner coverage. Only after being forced to address the issue at the bargaining table after employees unionized and facing intense community pressure did Ms. Christen finally agree to offer queer employees a monthly stipend for their lovers' healthcare services.

In a Staff meeting, Rene Durazzo, deputy director for programs, blasted a new policy by the San Francisco Health Commission requesting the number of openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual staff and board members at agencies that receive city money, and exhorted employees to call the Health Commission to complain. A memo issued that afternoon encouraged staff to decline to disclose their sexual orientation.

Continued on page 8

"[I thought I needed a doctor.
I really needed a teacher
...a collaborator.]"

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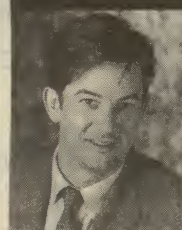
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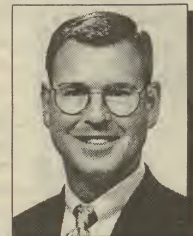
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LETTERS

If the leaders of the AIDS Foundation had any connection to San Francisco's queer community, they would have taken the time to investigate the policies of a religious charity such as the Salvation Army. At a minimum, they would reconsider their negotiations after learning of the organization's disturbing practices. However, the sad truth is that the AIDS Foundation is run by non-profit careerists who enjoy large paychecks but give very little back to the community that founded the agency.

Ryan Clary
San Francisco

The thin man

To My San Francisco Leather Family:

I was the International Mr. Drummer contestant who had the words, "Thin Is In" printed on my back during the jockstrap presentation in the contest on Sept. 23. Some people were offended and thought that it was in bad taste because so many in our community are sick. I wanted to make a statement against the tyranny of the perfect body type in the gay community at large. I was "goofing" on my own thin body type. It's okay for me to have fun with myself.

If the heavier contestant next to me onstage had the words "Big Is Better" printed on his back it would have been even better. "Thin Is In" was a set-up for the Popeye poses I would have done if the technical crew hadn't blundered at the solo portion of the jockstrap presentation.

The entire vein of my performances in the contest were based on humor. We must allow ourselves to laugh as well as strike leather attitudes intended to elicit specific responses from our brothers. I, as well as anyone, know the devastating images of dying AIDS patients, as my lover of 15 years died weighing 110 pounds. He would have rolled in the aisle laughing if he had been here to see me celebrate my body type.

Hey, gang, it's okay to laugh and to express our own unique individuality. Without laughter, we have only tears, so lighten up, for crying out loud!

Adam Colt
Mr. Northeast Drummer 1995
Brooklyn, NY

Hold the flowers

Regarding Mary Ann Swisler's page-two story ("ACT UP at OrchidMania Zaps Berkeley Mayor 'Mean Dean'") on September 21, some corrections and clarifications are in order.

All of OrchidMania's forty volunteers are happy for any positive news coverage our organization receives. Despite the headline, however, Swisler's story was not about OrchidMania at all. Lest any of your readers be misled by the headline or the staged photograph you printed, OrchidMania is not associated in any way with John Iversen, a correspondent for the now-defunct *Sentinel*, who represented himself as appearing at our Berkeley fundraiser on behalf of ACT UP. We did not invite him and we are appalled by his behavior.

Swisler's highly-editorialized story never mentioned that we raised almost \$18,000 at our two-day sale. As you know, orchid growers around the world donate thousands of live orchid plants to us each year, which we sell at "Orchid Garage Sales." Proceeds go to grassroots AIDS programs in Northern California, Southeast Asia and Central America. Mayor Shirley Dean attended our Mother's Day Sale last May and invited us to produce an event in her city. Her office went to great lengths to assist us. We are grateful for her help.

Iversen's "zap" was a loud, vitriolic tirade that lasted the better part of half an hour. Some of his abuse was aimed at our volunteers. "You're not an AIDS organization anyway," he told some of us. "You people aren't even from here," he shouted at my 70-year-old mother who drives 120 miles to volunteer at all our events. Other volunteers come at their personal expense from as far away as New York. And to set the record straight, we've raised almost \$200,000 in the past six years. Unlike some AIDS "charities," none of us gets a salary, and most of us make great personal sacrifices for the success of this work.

"Pathetic Drag Queen Disrupts AIDS Fundraiser" might have been a better headline for Swisler's piece. While we enthusiastically agree that adequate housing, medical care and basic human comforts should not be denied people with HIV anywhere, Iversen's behavior at our event was both offensive and inappropriate. Dean could have been "zapped" at any number of other public appearances. Iversen's behavior reflected badly on our community to the hundreds of people who were there just to buy an orchid plant. Although we were thoroughly embarrassed by one of our own, Mayor Dean spent a couple hundred dollars and left unharmed.

Doug Thompson
President, OrchidMania

[The editor responds: Honestly, nobody thinks you're associated with Iversen or vice versa; everyone knows you're too busy being what you are.]

Outraged

[The following letter was sent to Political Editor Wayne Friday:]

The reason I'm writing is two-fold. One was to say that in spite of so many losses through our social circles and friends from the past, I was delighted to see your name still appearing in the *B.A.R.* I hope you are doing well.

Upon reading in your recent column about the HIV negative gays who feel left out, I was disgusted by their statements and behavior and at the same time in agreement with your response to their actions. These people are obviously insecure and unhappy with their lives, regardless of HIV status. This is only a vehicle to get attention. If they feel left out or people around them aren't including them in any of the other reindeer games, too bad. Those friends are probably busy with living with AIDS, being buddies and care-givers. Maybe those complaining have simply chased friends away by their own insecure, whining and childish behavior. Perhaps friends they used to have would rather spend time with better adjusted, self-confident and fun-to-be-with people, regardless of their health. It reminds me of people who scream racism or sexism after being fired from a job but never consider whether or not they may have actually been incompetent on the job.

Thanks for your words of outrage at their actions.

Jerry Semas
Modesto, CA

The second epidemic

In reply to the column "Negative Feelings," the letters to the editor in the September 7th edition succinctly expressed the range of my feelings, but I would like to add a personal note.

I was the only caregiver, 24 hours a day, for seven months for my bed-bound lover while he died from AIDS. And, like most other gay men in San Francisco, I have cared for, watched die and tried to grieve for countless friends, acquaintances and neighbors.

I last tested in November of 1993, the results were negative. Since then I have had repeated incidents of moderately risky sex, and some high risk behavior. I consider myself a fairly typical example of someone in the "second epidemic," the mental health epidemic resulting from the AIDS epidemic. My life frequently has so little meaning, and seems so hopeless that anything, including unsafe sex, that might make me feel better even for a few minutes is worth it at the time. I realize this isn't a rational response to a life-threatening situation, but virtually none of us is rational anymore.

The fact that people who are HIV positive need substantial help, financial and otherwise, to cope with their lives does not invalidate or diminish the great needs of HIV negative men. Unless some effective solutions are found to help HIV negative men cope with post traumatic stress syndrome (caused by endless multiple loss bereavement issues) we are going to continue to self-destruct with drugs and risky sex, and seroconversion and the AIDS epidemic will continue unabated and undiminished.

David Ayotte
San Francisco

National Coming Out Day

This morning, I was thinking of Coming Out Day and feeling a bit resentful. I hate being told I have to do something on a particular day whether it comes naturally or not. Yet I know how important coming out is, and I wanted to contribute to the spirit of the day.

I decided that I would set an intention of coming out. I would let the idea float around in my consciousness without putting any pressure on myself to devise a way. Setting an intention is actually a pagan concept (fitting for the mother of a faerie). Intentions can be very powerful. You have no idea how they will actually manifest.

At about 4 p.m., an older patron came into the library where I work to donate a book on lesbian marriage. I'm quite "out" at work and in the community as a whole. Yet I was surprised when she shouted in what she probably thought was a soft voice, "Is there a PFLAG chapter in Pacifica?" I told her in my library voice that the closest chapters were in San Francisco and San Mateo.

"Why isn't there a chapter here?" she asked. "There are hundreds of gay and lesbian people in this town."

I found myself lowering my voice even more than usual. Only later did I realize that I still carry some discomfort around being "too" vocal and "too" out. I was also surprised at how quickly intentions can manifest. I had forgotten to say, "October 11. Remember to come out on October 11." Oh well, it worked. Good luck with your own coming out intentions. And remember: the more specific you can be, the better.

Laura Siegel
Pacifica, CA

Correction

The name of the Executive Director of Bay View-Hunter's Point Foundation for Community Improvement's AIDS Services, referred to in a recent story, is correctly spelled Chinyeri Madawaki. Also, the *B.A.R.* has been notified by John Davis of San Francisco that he did not write a letter to the editor entitled "Roberta's Back," published September 28, and that his name was forged.

WAYNE FRIDAY



Photo: Rick Gerhart

Opera stars Frederica von Stade, Rodney Gilroy and Susanne Mentzer, along with their accompanist, accept the applause of an SRO audience at an Oct. 2 benefit in Berkeley at the First Congregational Church for the AIDS Project of Contra Costa County. They sang a variety of solos, duets, arias and folk songs, and ended the program with an audience sing-along of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Ross rallies the troops

When Texas billionaire-turned-political-gadfly **Ross Perot** announced last week that he would establish a third party for the 1996 presidential election, many political observers of all persuasions immediately recognized the move as an effort by the eccentric Perot to take the buzz about **Colin Powell** and his book off the front pages and put himself back into the presidential spotlight. Perot, straight-faced and all, told reporters and supporters

Commentary

he "doesn't plan" to become the nominee of his new party, but would in fact urge another to take on **President Clinton** and probable GOP nominee **Bob Dole** next year. Don't bet on it.

Political predictions are risky but a lot of fun, so allow me one: **Colin Powell** won't run for president next year, but **Ross Perot** will — and he'll lose again. Don't think for a minute that **Ross Perot**, with an ego bigger than even his unusual ears, will spend millions of dollars of his personal fortune to form a third party and then hand the nomination of that same party over to someone else.

Colin Powell, if he were to enter the presidential sweepstakes, would most likely run as a Republican. He knows only too well that while independent party movements have come and gone (Populist, Farmer-Labor, Socialist, Progressive, Bull Moose and the like) with varying success, none have ever elected a president.

A recent *USA Today/CNN*/Gallup Poll suggested that many Americans are looking for an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties: an astounding 41 percent said they might vote for an independent. However, most of those polled nixed **Ross Perot** as a candidate. Indeed, though the core of the new Independence (or Reform) Party promised by Perot last week would likely be comprised in large part by those who voted for the eccentric billionaire in 1992, many of those said they preferred someone other than Perot as their nominee.

Who stands to lose and who stands to gain by the advent of an independent party? Well, those same Republican presidential wannabes who trooped to Texas only a few weeks ago to suck up to Perot are now quietly trying to downplay both his importance and, in particular, the third party idea. **Bob Dole**, **Phil Gramm**, **Pat Buchanan**, et al. can already see the writing on the wall: the Texas spoiler of '92 is set to strike again

in '96. I'll give you odds there are some wide, albeit nervous, smiles in the White House these days.

Politics and people

The aforementioned **Ross Perot** crisscrossed California this past weekend in an effort to rally supporters in gathering the signatures of 890,064 registered voters, the number needed by October 24 to qualify his Independence Party for the California ballot in '96 — either that or 89,007 people must register as members of the new party by October 24. A difficult task to be sure, but even leaders of the state Democratic and Republican parties admit Perot and his ambitious backers can pull it off. "It takes a lot of money and a lot of people," one well-known Democratic consultant said, adding, "but Perot has both."

There's always a job: Popular former Texas Governor **Ann Richards**, who made a heavily-promoted Doritos commercial recently with another defeated governor, N.Y.'s **Mario Cuomo**, is reportedly headed for Broadway in December, taking over for former *Brady Bunch* star **Ann B. Davis** in the four-year-old Broadway musical *Crazy for You*.

Elizabeth Taylor's many San Francisco friends will want to know that she will be in the hospital next week for a second hip replacement. Ms. Taylor, during a barbecue given at her Bel-Air home for friends last week, reportedly chatted excitedly about **Steve Forbes's** entry into the GOP presidential race. She disclosed how much she missed **Steve's** closeted dad, the late **Malcolm Forbes**, calling him "a close friend who spoiled me outrageously." **Forbes** senior once handed her a check for \$1 million for the fight against AIDS. La Liz also discussed her own AIDS foundation: "Now I keep track of everything. I handle the money. I know exactly what's going on, every penny," said the woman who has single-handedly raised nearly \$50 million to combat the disease.

Dr. Paul Volberding, **Dr. Milton Estes**, **Dr. Wally Krampf**, **Dr. Donald Abrams**, **Dr. Jessica Blake**, **Naphtali Offen**, and **Hank Wilson** are among those sponsoring the **Andrew Zysman Memorial Benefit** to support HIV treatment issues and breast cancer advocacy for **ACT UP/Golden Gate** on Sunday, October 15, at 42 Degrees, 235 16th Street. (3-7 p.m., \$100 donation requested, 626-9634 or 861-8619 for info). The event will feature a sumptu-

ous buffet with rare wines, first-class entertainment and a silent auction, and will honor **Dr. Steven Meeks** for AIDS advocacy and **Gracia Buffleben** for breast cancer advocacy. On a personal note, while I have often disagreed with their tactics, **ACT UP/Golden Gate** deserves credit for speeding up the drug-approval process, evaluating trial designs and expanding patient access to treatments for both HIV and breast cancer. God only knows where the fight for AIDS treatments would be without their efforts.

To the surprise of no one, the Mormon Church last week issued a proclamation calling for the preservation of traditional marriage and family to avoid "calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets." Mormon President **Gordon Hinckley**, revered as a prophet by the world's 9 million Mormons, read the proclamation that stated: "We declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wed as husband and wife." Although **Hinckley** denounced same-sex marriages, he said, "Our hearts reach out to those who struggle with feelings of affection for the same gender, but we cannot condone immoral practices on your part any more than we can condone immoral practices on the part of others."

City Hall gossips are telling me that **Angela Alioto** is in the mayoral race for the long haul and, if she doesn't make it to the runoff, will definitely battle Supervisor **Carole Migden** for an Assembly nomination next year.

Chastity Bono, daughter of **Cher** and Representative **Sonny Bono**, and a surviving partner of a woman with cancer, was the featured speaker Saturday at a benefit in Washington for lesbians with cancer. Ms. Bono, 26, a gay rights activist, owns a restaurant in LA and writes for the *Advocate*.

B.A.R. publisher **Bob Ross**, **Tom Horn**, **Bob Golovich**, **Angela Bradstreet**, **Jim Rogers**, **Jon Kouba**, and **Jon Ballesteros**, among other gay and lesbian supporters, are hosting a brunch/fundraiser for Mayor **Frank Jordan** Sunday, October 8, at the Jordans' home (11 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$250 donation asked).

Incidentally, election day is only a month away. **Achtenberg? Brown? Jordan? Alioto?** Name your poison, and get out and work for the candidate of your choice (or don't complain after the votes are counted). ▼



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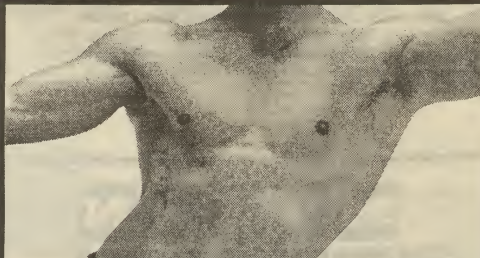
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St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York

Mary Romeyn, MD
Internist, Author, Nutrition and HIV: A New Model For Treatment

Morris Schambelan, MD
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Kristin Weaver, RN, MSN
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Jane Philomen Celand

Rebels Without A Prayer

The mighty Girlfriends crushed the Rebels, 33-6, in week four of the SF Women's Flag Football Season at the Polo Field at Golden Gate Park Oct. 1. Girlfriends QB Maureen Bennett's pass attack spurred her team past the outmatched Rebels to an easy victory.

SAPPHISTICATION

Thinking globally

by Beth Elliott

Taking a popular political bumper sticker and running with it, I'm defining good commentary writing about their lack of sexual attraction to women. I've heard so many say they cried when Thelma and Louise kissed and joined hands before flying away.

Of course, there are lesbian feminists who say straight women should marry each other anyway, and just ignore their lust for boys. I guess the idea is they can learn to find a greater bliss in gentle, egalitarian "woman-loving" if they just close their eyes and think of Lesbian Nation. That kind of thinking — fundamentalist thinking, when you get right down to it — cost lesbians a community (and a very sex-positive community it

the thought of our getting the notion to get together with each other instead of with them. And you know what? More straight women than you might imagine like that idea, and feel wistful about their lack of sexual attraction to women. I've heard so many say they cried when Thelma and Louise kissed and joined hands before flying away.

Of course, there are lesbian feminists who say straight women should marry each other anyway, and just ignore their lust for boys. I guess the idea is they can learn to find a greater bliss in gentle, egalitarian "woman-loving" if they just close their eyes and think of Lesbian Nation. That kind of thinking — fundamentalist thinking, when you get right down to it — cost lesbians a community (and a very sex-positive community it

crossdressing is worth encouraging, for sure — but can you say, giddy naughty embarrassment and exploitation? (Actually, I'd tune in for a show on "women who strap it on and stick it to their husbands." How 'bout you?)

And deeply indicative, to my mind, of the mainstream American mentality was the synchronicity of two tabloids doing stories on murdered Tejano singer Selena in one week. (There's that darned Ben and Jerry's impulse purchase factor again!) One said she'd appeared to someone who subsequently made an unexplained recovery from some ailment or other. The other purported to quote her accused killer as having found her in some tawdry lesbian love nest or something. Saint or lesbian slut — now there's an original dichotomy!

(Just don't for one minute get the idea being queer lets any of us off the lowbrow hook automatically. Within the gay community, we have too many folks who think that if something's campy or sexually themed, it's automatically clever and witty, not smarmy and tasteless. Sorry, but each one gets judged individually on the merits — usually by people who don't feel they have to prove how un-straight they are.)

And while we're wondering what's up with America, has anyone else had the perverse thought that the '96 presidential election just might come down to Jesse Jackson versus Colin Powell? That sure would fry some of the more backwards voters, wouldn't it? I can imagine the CNN poll question now: shit, go blind, or undecided?

The real stop-and-think possibility, of course, would be an independent Colin Powell/Bill Bradley ticket. Too centrist for a lot of queer folk, but it would have to be reckoned with. Two questions that bear asking: gays in the military aside, what does Powell think about our place in the rest of society? And are Powell's few statements of position to date balanced and moderate, or is he turning into the Negro Bill Clinton (in terms of waffling)? Enquiring sarcastic bitches want to know. ▼

Commentary

was) in which we could discover for ourselves, as women, all the possibilities of lesbian sexuality. We're just now getting back to that, realizing we need both the benefit of other sex rebels' experience and "women's space" to compare notes with each other.

Reclaiming the paradigm

During the decade between now and the next world conference, can we reclaim the "female-identified" paradigm from those who've made it into a fundamentalist religion? I hope so. I also hope we're spared the spectacle of lesbianism being labeled depravity by government representatives whose agenda is to maintain their "right" to cut out women's clits.

Now back to bitching locally: As much as my looking for cool people to have in my life makes no point allocation either way based on sexual orientation, there's much in America today I'll be damned if I'm going to assimilate into. Like tabloid think. It's more than noticing that, the other week, three of those daytime talk shows were featuring straight male crossdressers — all on the same day. Straight boys

SF Renaissance honors local lesbian artist/entrepreneur

by Mary Ann Swissler

San Francisco artist Kimbyl Edwards describes herself as "a white girl raised on white bread," and says she has no idea why the majority of her artwork has a Japanese theme. But whatever it was that compelled her to craft a line of Japanese-style rock-and-plant desktop fountains and hand-made paper lamps from her garage, it was lucky: today, she owns Zen Again Productions, a 3,400-square foot crafts studio in Potrero Hill with eight employees, and was recently honored with the Entrepreneur of the Year award by San Francisco Renaissance, a small business training program aimed at low and moderate income entrepreneurs.

If the reasons why she was drawn to Japanese designs are a mystery to Edwards, the origins of her company's success aren't. She credited SF Renaissance's 14-week program of twice weekly night classes, and says its \$400 tuition is a bargain. "I got thousand of dollars of information out of there. They taught me how to think."

SF Renaissance, which presented the award at a Sunday, September 22 ceremony, receives funding from the mayor's office and several corporate sponsors. In addition to offering night classes, Edwards says, "they also have a business incubator, which houses offices that are available for cheap rent for businesses - with a copy machine, waiting room, the look of a business. It's also an incredible network system."

Zen Again makes a full line of handmade paper lamps, desktop fountains, and Shoji screens. But it's been the miniature rock and plant water fountains that Edwards began designing three years ago that have brought the most expansion. The first one, she said, "attracted so much attention that it has been responsible for around 65 percent of my income for the past two years."

Retail prices of fountains range between \$100 to \$225, with lamps between \$80 to \$3,000. They are sold locally at Elements, Out of Hand, or Fillemento. Products are also available wholesale. The Zen Again Productions studio can be reached at (415) 621-4433, or by fax at (415) 647-6478.

Showcase II - organizing the East Bay

Over 50 gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender businesses and services will be on hand for the second annual East Bay Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce "Showcase of Businesses" next Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Berkeley Conference Center.

Participants will reflect the wide diversity in the East Bay,

OUT for business

ranging from Genentech, Inc. and AT&T to graphic artists, psychotherapists, accountants, attorneys, bookstores, and a host of others. According to spokesperson Alex Adelman, the yearly event was moved to the Berkeley Conference Center to accommodate the increased number of people expected this year.

Original art worth over \$5,000 has been donated for a raffle benefiting the Pacific Center for Human Growth and the East Bay AIDS Center.

The Chamber of Commerce publishes a business directory, a monthly newsletter and sponsors monthly open houses. In addition they help support local organizations such as the brand new East Bay Pride Coalition.

Call (510) 287-2571 for more information.

Gift catalogues beyond the rainbow

When shopping for the lesbian or gay person who has everything (except their civil rights), gift catalogues are a good place to start. But if all the gift catalogs aimed at a gay clientele are starting to look alike, take a look at a new line of gift items from Pittsburgh-based Boo Va' Specialties.

The company's initial catalog will be out this week, said owner Kim Wilson, who says that "if we would not use it, like it, wear it, or buy it ourselves, Boo Va' Specialties will not offer it."

Wilson says she began her company out of frustration with the sameness of gay and lesbian-oriented catalogs. "The majority of the products will be hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind items, such as picture frames, clocks, jewelry, etc., with an art deco, new vogue flair."

For a free brochure about these and other novelty items contact them at (800) 322-1785, by fax at

(412) 322-7398 or by mail at: P.O. Box 76014, Pittsburgh PA 15214-0014. Their e-mail address is BooVaTODAY@AOL.com.

Communications innovations

T.L.C. pre-paid phonecards takes the concept behind progressive long-distance companies like Working Assets and applies it locally, here in San Francisco. According to representative Todd Bishop, between 2 and 2 1/2 percent of proceeds from every T.L.C. phonecard sale will be divided among the following organizations: Project Open Hand, the AIDS Treatment Ward at S.F. General Hospital, S.F. City and County health clinics, and S.F. public schools and college districts. To sign up call 864-0999.

The Krews Board is a new graphics bulletin board available by dialing 431-7349. Free trial access time is available for new users.

Out For Business welcomes community response. Send column ideas to: 395 Ninth Street, SF CA 94103.

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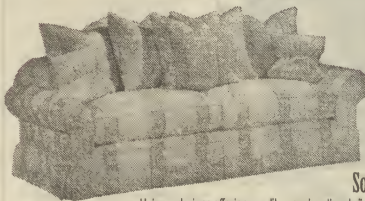
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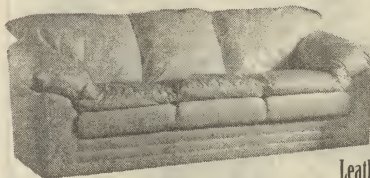
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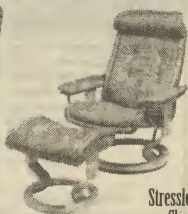
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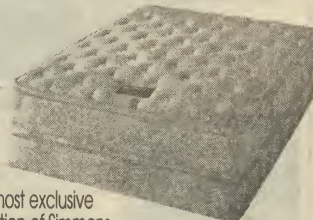
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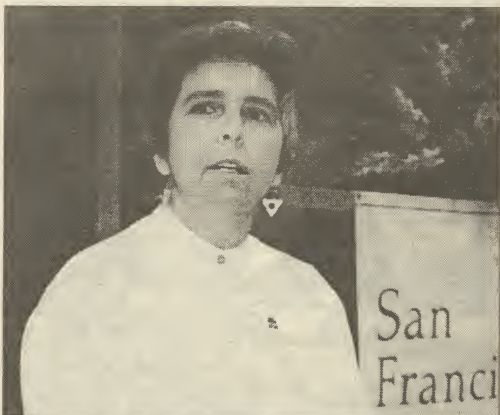


Photo: Jane Philomen Cletand

A self-described "white girl raised on white bread," SF artist Kimbyl Edwards is SF Renaissance's Entrepreneur of the Year.

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Robberies

Continued from page 1

ond driver refused to stop and the assailants realized that there were people watching the crime, they fled the scene.

Crain said he flagged down a passing cab so he could get his friend home to safety. After they got in the cab, he recalled, they held hands all the way home.

"When we got home we both cried and then Bob went

to bed while I tended my wounds," he said.

The attack follows a September 20 incident in which a pair of men in ski masks armed with a knife and gun robbed a gay man walking down Collingwood Street between 19th and 20th Street.

The most recent incident was reported to CUAU, but police declined to file a report over the telephone, so Crain told the B.A.R. at press time he plans to file one at Mission Station in person. ▼

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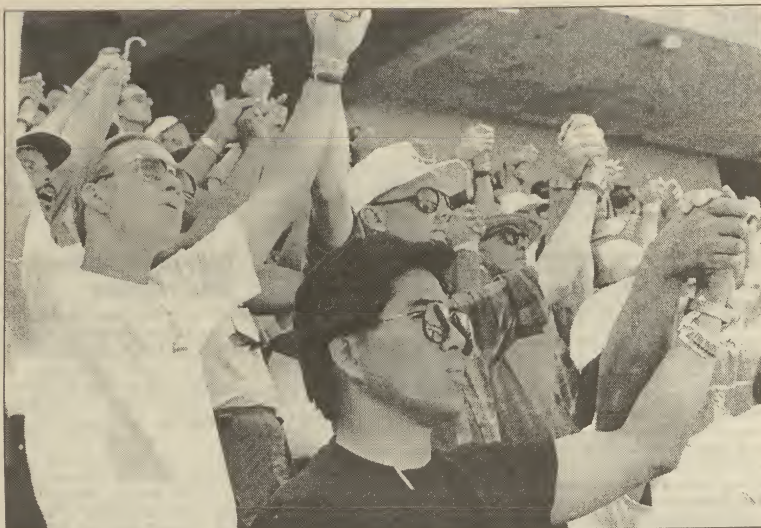


Photo: Peter Matthews

Doing it for Jesus: Attendees were asked to join hands with firm masculine grips and sing to show their faith in and love for Jesus Christ.

Fundies Hawk Anti-Gay Flyers At Oakland Godfest

by Jaime Cader

Last weekend, September 29 and 30, nearly 50,000 men from all over Northern California filled the Oakland Coliseum for a sold-out whooping, hollering "Promise Keepers" event to pray and testify about their evangelical Christian beliefs. Protesters, mostly from

the National Organization for Women (NOW), stood at the entrance holding signs to show their opposition to the macho ideology being hawked inside.

Promise Keepers organizer Harold Campbell said gay people are "welcome to attend if they wish - although the movement's understanding is that, according to the Bible, homosexuality is an abomination to God." Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney has also repeatedly made his own anti-gay stand known in Colorado.

The Reverend Tony Evans, a Promise Keepers speaker from Oakland, said, "I am convinced that the primary cause of the national crisis is the feminization of the American male. ... I am trying to describe a misunderstanding of manhood that has produced a nation of 'sissified' men."

Representatives from various organizations and groups were present at the event, some of them in the ministry booths area. Among these were Exodus International, an "ex-gay" ministry, and Focus on the Family, a major religious right organization from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Exodus International booth had various types of free literature, including a pamphlet from an E-I affiliate group called the N-E-W Ministries, which is sponsored by the First Baptist Church in San Leandro, California. It stated, "We believe that homosexual behavior is a sin (1 Tim. 1:9-10; 1

Cor. 6:9-11)."

The Exodus booth also distributed other pamphlets and publications that included personal testimonies, and a multitude of order forms for books and cassettes. Exodus recommends purchasing books at the General Christian Store on Fourth Street in San Rafael.

A group of men outside the coliseum passed out pamphlets from The Church in York, located in York, Pennsylvania, one of which stated that a commonly ignored biblical teaching is that women should not speak in the church or teach and have authority over men (11 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 14:34). The same pamphlet states, "These teachings are not popular in today's society. But Christians should be more concerned about what God thinks than what society thinks."

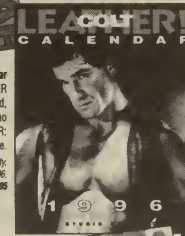
In his book *When God Becomes a Drug*, the Reverend Leo Booth, an Episcopal priest, explains why ideologies similar to the Promise Keepers' will create conflict. "This [idea]," he wrote, "is the foundation of religious addiction and abuse: 'We are bad, and God will magically fix us if we do what someone tells us is God's wish.'"

According to Booth, other common symptoms of religious addiction are a conflict with science, medicine, and education, and a manipulation of scripture or texts. ▼

COLT 96 CALENDARS

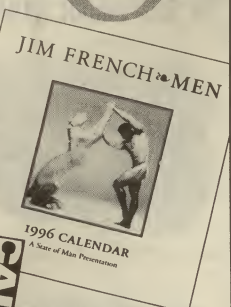


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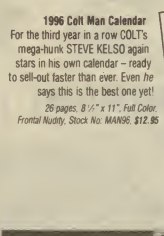


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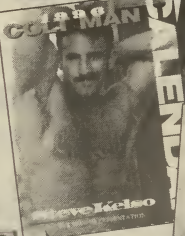
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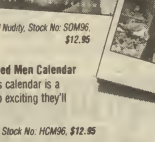
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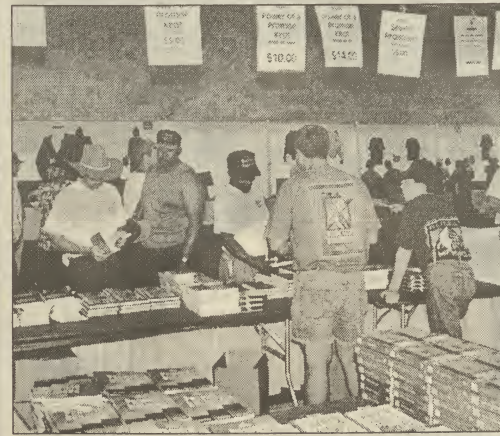


Photo: Peter Matthews

Higher learning: the fundie faithful shelled out big bucks for various Promise Keepers paraphernalia.

History of history

by Mary Ann Swissler

Missourian Rodney Wilson may be the main creator of Gay History Month (which began this week last year) but he is no outspoken urban gay activist; he lives in suburban St. Louis, where he has taught history at the same school since 1990.

"I first got the idea [for Gay History Month] in the fall of 1993," Wilson recalled for the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I started teaching junior American history and I noticed that I had an 800-page American history textbook from which - if the world were to end and one book were to survive the end of the world, and it happened to be that textbook - there would be no evidence that a gay person ever lived, before Columbus, during Columbus, or after Columbus."

"There is nothing about gay people in my textbook. That was appalling to me and shocking, and I thought it was a travesty."

As Wilson considered the problem, he thought America needed to have a month to celebrate gay and lesbian accomplishments throughout history, modeled after Black History Month and Women's History Month. In January 1994, he was inspired by a letter to the editor in *Newsweek*, written by a 14-year-old boy, reiterating Wilson's point that thus far gays didn't exist in history. "I remember so distinctly," he said, "I was sitting on this same couch I'm now on, reading this article. I put the article down and I walked immediately to my computer and I typed up a proposal for Lesbian and Gay History Month."

Wilson sent the proposal to GLAAD, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Project 21, and Project 10, and got an immediate response from people in organizations who thought it was a good idea.

On a personal level

Not coincidentally, the idea for a Gay History Month germinated during Wilson's own coming out process at school. By that point, about one-third of the faculty already knew his sexuality, and he said he was pushed further out of the closet by a statewide anti-gay

rights initiative.

In March 1994, Wilson came out to his class during a discussion about the incarceration and extermination of homosexuals during World War II, telling them that he would have had to wear a pink triangle sewn on his chest in Nazi Germany because he was gay.

"The news of course spread very quickly through the high school and then spread through the administration, and I was taken out of class and called to the office - which hadn't happened before - and questioned in detail as to what happened, and what I said, and why I said it, and all of this."

Although none of the students, parents, or school board members objected, the administration placed a letter about Wilson's "inappropriate behavior" in his file. He walked on eggshells the next year, he said, but still managed to get tenure in April 1995.

He also recognized Gay History Month, although he had to do so outside the schoolyard: he wrote an opinion article in a local newspaper; spoke at a local group for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in their 20s, and at the gay and lesbian student group at Washington University; and helped organize a local gay film festival at University of Missouri at St. Louis. This year he will speak at a group for queers under 21, called Growing American Youth, and at a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) meeting in Chicago.

But in the halls of his high school, where a pending school bond ballot initiative has politicized anything school-related, Wilson finds himself unable to recognize Gay History Month again this year. Next year, he vows, he will push the envelope of his own visibility by organizing a Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual History Month celebration at school. In the meantime, he said, he takes some comfort in knowing that "somewhere in every state there is something [about Gay History Month]."

The Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual History Month Project, Inc. can be contacted at 2124 Broadway, Box 160, New York NY 10023-2098, or (212) 727-0135, or by e-mail: LGBHM@AOL.COM.

Teachers

Continued from page 1

Adequate support?

The recommendation of the state commission to strip the teachers' credentials will be appealed to an administrative law judge, by attorneys for the California Teacher's Association representing the teachers.

Although school district spokeswoman Gail Kaufman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the district does support the teachers and does not believe that they should lose their careers based on Budnick's allegations, critics also charge its support of the teachers has been less than adequate.

Budnick is represented in the complaint by the virulently anti-gay Rutherford Institute, a right wing legal defense group that also represents the Hamilton Square Baptist Church in a suit brought against gay activists and media after a September 1993 protest at the site.

The conservative legal group - which has ties to the Christian Coalition and the Traditional Values Coalition - also defended Reverend Eugene Lumpkin following his dismissal from the Human Right Commission by Mayor Frank Jordan. Lumpkin was sacked after he made com-

ments on a local television broadcast indicating he supported biblical calls for the execution of homosexuals.

Critics say the efforts by Budnick and the Rutherford Institute are part of a right wing agenda to silence lesbian and gay people by targeting such activities and programs like the San Francisco school district's Support Services For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth.

The speakers in question were part of CUAV's speaker's bureau, which brings lesbians and gays into school classrooms to educate students about anti-gay violence through presentations and question-and-answer sessions.

"We're still speaking in classes, we're having a big event focusing on lesbian and gay domestic violence - and the fact is we know we have a great program. We are in this for the long haul," said Lester Olmstead-Rose, the group's executive director.

Olmstead-Rose said CUAV has since modified the program, and speakers don't answer personal questions about their sex lives.

Lesbian school board member Angie Fa and Supervisor Tom Ammiano, himself a former teacher and past president of the school board, plan to speak at the October 7 rally. Everyone is invited to participate. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

She's got legs: Roberta Achtenberg beams at the audience during last month's SF AIDS Foundation's Speakers Forum at the Unitarian Church.

The B.A.R. Interview: Roberta Achtenberg

by Mary Ann Swissler

Roberta Achtenberg has claimed all along that her decision to run in this year's mayor's race was not a last-minute or impromptu decision. Nor, she says, was it based upon raw ambition. She certainly didn't need a new job; as the highest-ranking open lesbian in the nation's capitol, she had power to spare.

But the announcement was done with a grand purpose in mind. Achtenberg has consistently told audiences throughout the campaign. Speaking with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Achtenberg repeated her reasons for trading her hard-fought position as an Assistant Secretary with Housing

and Urban Developing to run for mayor in the city where she has spent half her life.

"I think people are dissatisfied with the way city government works and they want to see it fundamentally reformed," she said. "I think people feel that government is not paying attention, is not being responsive, is not meeting their needs - and it's too expensive."

And despite many voters' immediate association of liberal progressives like herself with costly government programs, Achtenberg indicated that it is precisely for this reason that she is running. "Liberals and progressives need to show that we can govern, and that's one of the reasons I have said that I will devote virtually all of my energy as mayor to reforming, restructuring, and revitalizing city government so it can be worthy of respect again."

Neighborhood council

Immediately establishing a Mayor's Council of Neighborhoods would go a long way in achieving this goal, taking particular aim at the police and planning departments, Achtenberg said. She would fill the council seats with 46 appointed neighborhood "ambassadors" who would agree to meet each month, and also to hold monthly "neighborhood city halls," which she or a deputy mayor would attend.

"At the end of four years I would have attended some 48 of these, in the neighborhoods. We can foster a culture of direct access to the mayor, the kind of access that only organized interest groups and paid lobbyists have."

Still, it is homelessness, and not better access the Mayor, that is one of San Francisco's - and America's - more persistent problems and political pitfalls. Groups ranging from downtown-based corporations, to small businesses, to residents, to the homeless population and activists who argue their cause, say they feel left out in the cold by government policies on the issue.

Achtenberg's opinion is that an ever-present blind spot exists in San Francisco's treatment of the problem. "The fundamental flaw in Jordan's approach is not that law breaking should go unpunished," she said. "[But] he is putting police on the front lines of this, and essentially using a 'Move folks along' kind of approach to this problem that doesn't really solve anything."

"It's a tremendous waste of resources for a not very constructive end."

Again, Achtenberg's vision

relies on greater interdependence between downtown and the neighborhoods. "I live in the 'neighborhoods' too, and I pass the same homeless people everyday, too, and I understand that it is difficult for people to deal with and to cope with. What people have to understand is that the biggest potential salvation that we have in this area is to reconfigure our service delivery system, and to try and involve neighborhood people to the maximum extent possible, in whatever kinds of functions they're willing to be involved, and address in some meaningful fashion the homeless problem."

"Whether that's volunteering at a homeless shelter, agreeing to contribute in some other way, we need some of the energy that is in the neighborhoods to help us solve this problem."

She added that there are some examples here in San Francisco, and more in other metropolitan areas, of programs that get people off the street and treat the accompanying conditions that contributed to their homelessness to begin with.

The housing issue

One aspect of local housing that is succeeding, she said, is the shift from large-scale public housing projects to lower density housing units. But again, Achtenberg faulted Mayor Jordan for putting the wrong people in charge, this time towards the re-engineering of San Francisco's 12,000 public housing units.

"We have to have a Housing Authority that works," she said, "and this Housing Authority does not work. If we have to pull it apart and put it back together again, that's what needs to be done." Achtenberg said she would hire and appoint housing officials with a deeper commitment to housing "the most difficult" population in America.

It is possible to provide public housing that works, she believes, in spite of the scandals that periodically rip apart HUD, the current rush to end welfare payments, and the Gordian knot of poverty and homelessness in America. "What we've learned over 40 years is that you cannot concentrate in developments the poorest of the poor and surround poor people only with other poor people. ... That is a destructive environment for anyone to have to live in, and that needs to be changed. That's why pulling down Bernal Dwellings and rebuilding something with lower density is a good idea. And it will be mixed income families, which is more like what the community

Continued on page 15

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Log Cabin

Continued from page 1

presence at the convention surpassing its numbers as big name Republicans distanced themselves from presidential front-runner Bob Dole's "mistake" of returning a \$1,000 contribution from the group. Dole said he didn't agree with their "special rights agenda." That, Log Cabin executive director Rich Tafel explained at the workshop, forced them to go public with a stack of papers proving that the Dole campaign had solicited the money.

"The way that Log Cabin is treated within the party is a weathervane for many voters," Tafel said. "People want people to tell the truth. ... People are getting tired of [politicians] saying one thing and doing another. I think integrity is going to be an issue. ... What makes Colin Powell so interesting is that he doesn't toe a list of 'Family Values' rhetoric. He lives it. You can't argue with that."

Will Dole's run-in with Log Cabin affect the campaign? "His financial people had solicited the Log Cabin group - so under the circumstances, I think it was a mistake," said Republican political consultant Lynn Nofziger. "People react and sometimes they get fearful. But I don't think it's something that's going to win or lose the nomination for him."

They're supporting my agenda

"I remember what Ronald Reagan said years ago when he was running for governor and was

being criticized by folks because the far right was supporting him," said conservative Attorney General Dan Lungren, who hopes to be governor in 1996. "He said something to the effect that if people support me, I have the sense that they're supporting my agenda - I'm not necessarily supporting theirs." Lungren said that in 1976 he joined Reagan in opposing an anti-gay initiative on the California ballot and was once endorsed by the Log Cabin Club, though the gay Republicans are now "disappointed" in a number of his views. Nonetheless, he says, "I know some good people in the Log Cabin Club."

Arianna Huffington - whose husband Michael may run against Lungren - added a twist to the Dole-contribution controversy. "Mr. [Colin] Powell speaks straightforwardly about the problems posed by gays in the military, but I cannot imagine him returning a campaign contribution from the Log Cabin Republicans," she wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* article she handed out at the convention.

In fact, undeclared General Colin Powell was the absent man of the hour at the convention after moderates, pleased with their showing during the Pete Wilson lunch and the defeat of several onerous resolutions, were totally scotched by ultra-conservatives who passed a party platform almost identical to 1992. The California Republican Party now holds "the traditional model of monogamous heterosexual marriage as the only stable relationship upon which to build a soci-

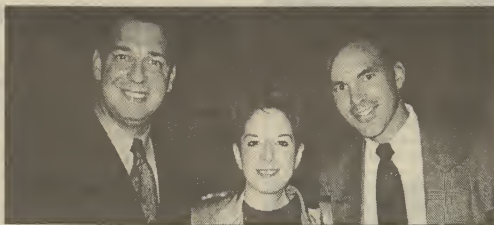


Photo: Karen Ocam

From left to right: Ritch Colbert, Carol Newman and Rich Tafel.

ety," and calls for the evaluation of every government policy in the context of whether or not it advances that message. It calls for "legislation to end movements by the government to instill 'politically correct' values into public school curriculum, including programs such as Project 10, which greatly detract from the critical importance of parental input." It also calls for the "reversal of *Roe v. Wade* which would return to the states the right to determine the issue of abortion."

Reservoirs for infections

As for AIDS, the GOP party platform supports mandatory reporting of the HIV disease and routine testing of healthcare workers who perform invasive procedures, and also recognizes "that AIDS-infected individuals serve as reservoirs for a variety of infections ... and [in recognizing] that these often highly contagious and dangerous infections represent a severe threat to the general population, supports testing of food

service workers to prevent infection of the general population."

"The moderate and 'big tent' members of the platform committee tried to have everything modified or tabled - but we were unsuccessful," says openly lesbian Log Cabin member Donna Siperek, who is also a member of the mainstream California Republican League. "I can honestly say that the moderates are starting to recognize that they can't sit back and do nothing. ... The Christian Coalition is very active."

"As a moderate/centrist I had hoped for some changes in the platform and I was very disappointed those changes could not

be made," says Nancy Spero, Secretary/Treasurer of the Republican California League of the San Fernando Valley, a Log Cabin supporter. "However, more people came up to me and said, 'Oh, you're the moderate.' Those people would never have come up to me before. They wanted me to know they did agree with our point of view. I think it's a softer world out there now."

Most moderates were extremely unsettled by the ways ultra-conservatives orchestrated the convention - such as ignoring by-laws and voting on points in the platform when there was not a quorum.

"I wasn't happy about the convention," San Francisco Log Cabin member Chris Bowman told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Everyone had been putting the word out for the past three years that there would be no repeat of the 1992 convention. Certainly this does not auger well for us preventing that from happening again - certainly not in California at least."

"The only solution I see is Mr. Powell - should he choose to run as Republican ... frankly I'll break out the champagne and celebrate." ▼

Roberta Achtenberg

Date of birth: July 20, 1950

Neighborhood: Noe Valley

Significant other: Mary Morgan, first appointed open lesbian judge in California, currently U.S. Justice Department attorney, Washington, D.C.

Lived in San Francisco 23 years

Education: UC Berkeley, B.A., History, 1972; University of Utah Law School, J.D., 1977.

Party affiliation: Democratic

Political background: Beginning in 1977, Achtenberg distinguished herself in the San Francisco community as a leading advocate for lesbian and gay civil rights. She helped found the National Center for Lesbian Rights, wrote one of the first books on employment discrimination, won a San Francisco Board of Supervisors seat in 1980, and in 1992 became the highest-ranking out lesbian in the U.S. government when she went to work for Pres. Bill Clinton's White House.

Heroes: Mom and Dad, Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Outstanding success to date: son Benjie

Favorite book/motto/etc.: movie *A Thousand Clowns*, starring Jason Robards.

Achtenberg

Continued from page 14

looks like, right? That's one of the ways that we have found that you can integrate public or subsidized housing into the community better."

Achtenberg's other strong suit, lesbian and gay issues, have not been much of an issue except to examine how her entrance into the race split the city's gay vote. Much of the reason for this is because, she said, "There has been a certain level of achievement in this community that is such that [our issues] are not the most pervasive thing on people's minds."

She pointed to programs she supported as supervisor, and would continue or expand upon if elected: the anti-discrimination ordinance, domestic partnership, and city funding for the Lyric Center, Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and 18th Street Services for substance

abuse. Achtenberg added that she would augment the powers of the Human Rights Commission, strengthen programs for gay youth, and speak out in support of gay friendly curriculums in the schools.

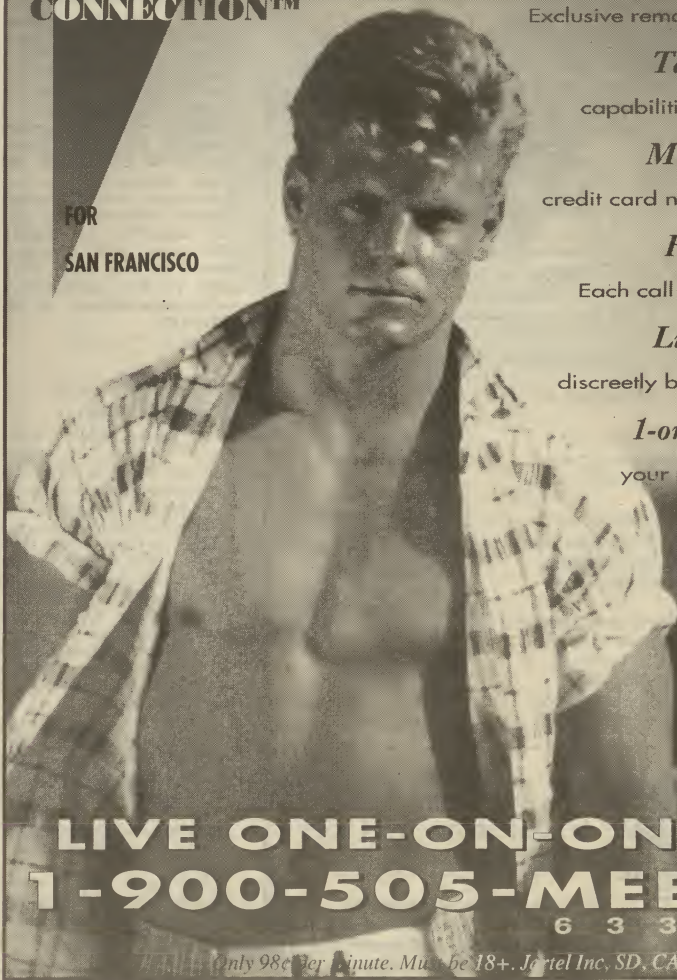
Achtenberg dismissed critics who have questioned why she left her supervisor and HUD positions before her term was up by saying, "I have finished every job that I have undertaken and I have done it with the utmost integrity and hard work, and anybody who has known the work that I have done for more than 25 years always in the public interest, never for the special interests, knows that I have undertaken this social justice work seriously."

"Being a mayor is merely a continuation of that work that I have been proud to do for a very long time." ▼

To contact the Achtenberg campaign, call (415) 575-0100.

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GLAAD

Bigotry's bullets

by Al Kielwasser

In the most outrageous assault on academic integrity since the Scopes trial, two San Francisco teachers have been stripped of their credentials — simply because they allowed a lesbian and a gay man to speak to sixth-grade students about sexual identity and hate violence. The case against the teachers was funded by the Rutherford Institute, a right wing organization based in Virginia that declared this just "the first bullets fired in what we can see as a growing campaign to eradicate such grotesque violation of parents' rights in public schools."

The teachers' credentials were revoked on September 25 by the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The San Francisco School District has been lukewarm in its support for the besieged teachers, but district officials have indicated that they might appeal the ruling.

All across the nation, the right wing is vigorously attacking our public schools, with the specific intent to censor fair and accurate information about homosexuality. If the bullets of bigotry are not stopped in San Francisco, then where will the gunfire end?

These teachers deserve the complete and unhesitating support of the San Francisco School District. The decision of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing is nothing but a capitulation to narrow-minded prejudice, and it must not be allowed to stand. There can be no compromise with homophobia.

Rebuke the Credentialing Commission and demand that the S.F. School District appeal this decision. Also, urge California School's Chief Delaine Eastin — who has vowed to combat homophobic censors — to speak out against this intolerable act. **Contact: Reuben Ingram, Chair, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Box 944270, Sacramento CA 94244-2700, fax 916-327-3166; Delaine Eastin, Superintendent of Public Instruction, 721 Capitol Mall, P.O. Box 944272, Sacramento CA 94244-2720; Bill Rojas, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District, 135 Van Ness Ave., S.F. CA 94102, tel. 415-241-6121 (copy your correspondence to Dan Kelly, President, S.F. Board of Education, at the same address, tel. 415-241-6427).**

Trial and tribulations

A "Special Report" in *TV Guide's* September 23-29 issue previews litigation surrounding the murder of a gay talk-show guest, who was killed shortly after his appearance on *Jenny Jones* last March ("A Daytime Talk Show Goes On Trial," Mike Hammer and Ileana Rudolph). As part of the talk show's "secret admirers" segment, Scott Amedure had revealed his attraction for another guest (John Schmitz, a heterosexual); three days later, Amedure was shot and killed by the "embarrassed" Schmitz.

A \$25 million civil suit has been brought by Amedure's family, which accuses the *Jenny Jones* show of negligence. That case will be heard sometime next year. The criminal trial of John Schmitz is scheduled to begin this year, on October 30, in Oakland County, Michigan.

TV Guide also previews (unwittingly) the flawed reporting likely to surround these trials. Though Amedure's murder was

widely reported in March, virtually none of the initial coverage mentioned the word "homophobia." Remarkably, the hate motivation behind the crime went unreported. The press focused instead on the issue of whether or not TV talks shows have become "too trashy."

The mainstream media seem poised to flop again. According to *TV Guide*, Court TV "is not planning to cover the criminal case and will instead focus on the civil suit."

Court TV's decision appears indefensible, and suggests a general disinterest in the killing of queers. The trial of *Jenny Jones* cannot be more vital than the trial of John Schmitz, unless murdering gay men is only newsworthy when the entertainment media are implicated.

Unfortunately, the themes of the civil and criminal trials are expected to overlap. *TV Guide* observes: "With the O.J. Simpson case finally winding down, TV's next sensational courtroom drama could well be a murder trial that also may indict the ambush-interview tactics of TV talks shows."

James Burdick, Schmitz's attorney, will argue that the *Jenny Jones* show — and not his client — is to blame for the murder of Scott Amedure. According to Burdick, "The shows are on trial, as far as we're concerned. ... I'm hoping that if people watch the proceedings they'll stop participating in these ambush shows and the producers will stop doing them." *TV Guide* quotes talk show host Mark Walberg, who agrees that the trial "is a wake-up call that we have an obligation to protect some guests against themselves."

Presumably, if homophobes are to be "protected" from their own propensity to kill, then talk shows will have to shield bigots from queer guests. ... and queer discussions. Inside this twisted logic, the victimizer truly becomes the victim, and industry self-censorship is the likely remedy.

TV Guide also reports that "the tabloid shows and such network newsmagazines as ABC's *PrimeTime Live* and *Dateline NBC* are already seeking interviews with the attorneys, Schmitz, and Jones." Schmitz's lawyer has been quick to respond that his client "has no money" and "somebody would have to offer a lot of money for an interview."

It would be unconscionable for these shows to offer "a lot of money" to any hate criminal. It would also be inexcusable if, this time around, the media fail once more to tell the real story.

Talk shows are not properly on trial here. Including out and open queers on television is no crime. **Killing them is.**

If not the lawyers, then at least mainstream journalists should examine the Schmitz case by focusing on our nation's epidemic of hate violence. The high-profile court coverage could, indeed, serve as a welcome "wake-up call" — by putting homophobia itself on trial.

Insist that the media get it right (or at least much less wrong) this time around. Send preemptive feedback to local and national news outlets, including Rita Quinn, PrimeTime Live, 147 Columbus Avenue, New York NY 10023, tel. 212-456-7777, fax 212-456-1297; ABC Audience Information, 77 W. 66th Street, New York NY 10023, e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com; Mark Rosenwasser, Dateline, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Room 410, New York NY 10112, tel. 212-664-3880, fax 212-664-7073, e-mail dateline@nbc.aol.com or dateline@news.

nbc.com; Steven Brill, President, Courtroom Television Network, 600 Third Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York NY 10016, tel. 212-973-2800; Mark Walberg, The Mark Walberg Show, 510 W. 57th Street, New York NY 10019, tel. 212-265-3760, fax 212-246-5099, e-mail markshowny@aol.com; Steven Reddicliffe, Editor-In-Chief, TV Guide, Radnor PA 19088, e-mail tvgeditor@delphi.com.

Media briefs

• **MORE ROTTEN ADVICE** ... "Let's Talk" is an advice column that purports to offer "Tough Questions; Honest Answers." The column, written by Jim Burns, appears in *Campus Life*, a Christian youth magazine. In a recent issue, one reader wrote: "Not long ago I found out a close Christian friend of mine is gay. ... What should I do?" Burns recommended spiritual counseling, and concluded: "Is it possible to love the sinner and hate the sin? You bet it is." **Demand some good advice, for a change, from Campus Life, 465 Gundersen Drive, Carol Stream IL 60188, fax 708-260-0114, e-mail CLedit@aol.com.**

• **BUSTING OUT** ... The nation's leading video rental chain — Blockbuster Video — has not always been a showcase for new queer cinema. In the latest issue of *Blockbuster News & Previews*, an in-store promotional "magazine," the company has begun soliciting customer recommendations. "Anybody listening out there?" the magazine asks. "What have you seen, heard or read? What would you like us to write about?" A review of Blockbuster's queer-themed films would be nice. So would a concerted effort to acquire new lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender titles. Send these or other suggestions to **Blockbuster News & Previews, P.O. Box 407060, Fort Lauderdale FL 33340, e-mail blockbuster@pwr.com.**

• **SPECIAL WRITES** ... Submissions are now being sought for a "ground-breaking anthology" about "the presence of various organized right-wing groups on campus in both the U.S. and Canada." Topics could include (but are not limited to) "Media Connections," "Reactionary Rhetoric," "Hate Group Activities," "Think Tanks and Foundations," "Coercion in the Classroom," and "Strategies for Resistance." **Contact: Disturbing Alliances, P.O. Box 7205 - University Station, Syracuse NY 13210-7205, tel/fax 315-478-7914, e-mail bones@bosshog.arts.uwo.ca. Deadline: November 1, 1996.▼**

To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, please call our 24-hour MediAlert Hotline (415-861-4588) or write to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaadsfba@aol.com, URL <http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek/glaad.html>.

Gays, Christian Right Debate Same-Sex Marriage

by Bob Roehr

It was billed as a "debate," but the Thursday, September 26 forum in Washington, DC may just be the start of an extended public dialog between the gay community and the Christian right.

Rich Tafel, executive director of the gay Log Cabin Republicans, squared off against Martin J. Mawyer, president and founder of Christian Action Network (CAN), to debate "gay marriage." C-SPAN had tentatively agreed to tape and broadcast the program, but pulled out the night before because of scheduling conflicts.

Mawyer is a stalwart of the religious right, having worked for Jerry Falwell and written several "pro-family" books prior to founding the politically oriented Christian Action Network in 1990. The group's literature describes itself as "the leader in exposing and fighting the homosexual rights agenda." In 1992 it ran a television commercial attacking Bill Clinton's "support for the gay rights platform." And it fought lifting the ban on gays in the military.

So the program began with anticipation of sharp rhetoric between the two parties. That didn't happen. There was disagreement to be sure, but there also seemed to be real discussion and movement away from the most strident anti-gay language that has often characterized much of the Christian right.

Mawyer's main point was that marriage is designed principally for children. He even went so far as to say, "If there are no plans for having kids, the state should stay out of it." He questioned whether

the state has "a compelling interest to license same-sex marriages," and answered negatively.

Tafel continued the logic of that argument. "If the whole reason for marriage is children, then we really should have a process by which we ask: 'Are you going to have children?' If you are not, then you are not allowed to get married."

Mawyer was uncomfortable denying the option of marriage to senior citizens.

He debated briefly around the issue of "whether homosexual couples should be allowed to parent children," without coming to any conclusion. It was clear from his tone and manner that he was troubled by the issue but was not willing to issue a blanket condemnation of all gays and lesbians as unfit parents, nor use the power of the state to tear a child from a parent.

Tafel called marriage "an evolving institution. ... At one time in history, women were property. We wouldn't argue that today." Likewise, interracial marriage was outlawed in the state of Virginia until 1967, when the Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional.

He stressed "the civilizing effect of marriage, particularly on men," and urged extension of this social contract to include same sex couples. "It would only bring long term stability" to gay relationships. "There is no more basic right than the right to love someone, and have that properly recognized."

Time-honored bigotry

"For those who claim that gay marriage is an immoral notion,

how does it rank against infidelity and promiscuity?" Tafel asked Mawyer. "You can't say the gay community is a promiscuous community, while denying any cultural or civil ways of acknowledging long term relationships."

"The way I view it, and the time-honored way that religious people view it," said Mawyer, "is we don't care if the state wants to recognize our marriage [and 140 civil protections and benefits associated with that status], that is not something we covet. What we covet is the fact that the religious elements behind our marriage are recognized by that church."

"I think the reason why you don't covet all of these protections is because you have them," countered Tafel. "See what happens once they are taken away. Try that for a while. See what happens when you try to visit your wife in a hospital or you try to figure out your financial status. You will see very quickly that you do covet all of the civil protections."

Moderator Jim Pinkerton summarized the debate by noting that both parties were making quasi-libertarian arguments, "both are expressing some trepidation of the power of the state ... a skepticism of the ability of the government to create some sort of one size fits all model for all Americans." He saw the possibility for "an evolving coalition" alliance between the two on common issues such as school choice and the role of government.

The two groups are discussing further public debates. ▼

Investigational Program for People Who Are HIV Positive with Anal Warts

Anal warts and a potentially precancerous lesion known as anal intraepithelial neoplasia are difficult to treat in HIV positive individuals, and have a high recurrence rate after treatment.

Investigators at the University of California, San Francisco are conducting a study of a new form of treatment designed to reduce the risk of recurrence of anal warts and related diseases after treatment, and hopefully the risk of progression to anal cancer.

We are currently looking for HIV positive people with anal warts willing to participate in this 12 week trial, which requires weekly visits for follow-up and monitoring.

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For more information and eligibility requirements, please call Naomi Jay at (415) 476-2909.



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GOP

Continued from page 1

the name Sheldon was at the Office of Political Reform, where the California Republican Party reported that in 1994 the amount of \$1,950 was paid to Sheldon's son, Steven, and was charged off to "general operation and overhead."

The revelation, made by Project Tocsin, a group that researches the religious right, could bolster the legal arguments at the trials of the demonstrators at San Francisco's Hamilton Square Baptist Church. Activists have long claimed they were not disrupting a religious service - that the gathering was really a political rally being conducted by Sheldon. Sheldon, a registered lobbyist with the State of California, has not pastored a church for years, but still uses the title "Reverend" and allegedly is minister in good standing with the Presbyterian Church in America.

"For far too many years Sheldon has made a more than comfortable living as a professional gaybasher," said Larry Hoover, president of Sacramento's Lambda Community Center. "Project Tocsin has stated they view the gaybashing; the attacks on people with AIDS; and the fanatic effort to keep gays and lesbians out of textbooks, history books, and schools as a part of the 'Sheldon Family Full Employment Plan,'" Hoover said, referring to the huge numbers of Sheldon kin on the TVC payroll. "I think it's pretty obvious when you have Lou and his wife Beverly, son Steve and daughter Andrea all employed by

TVC - those poor folks in the churches just empty their pockets when they're told they can keep those demon gays starving and drive them back into the closet and kept away from 'recruiting' their children."

GOP-financed, non-partisan guide?

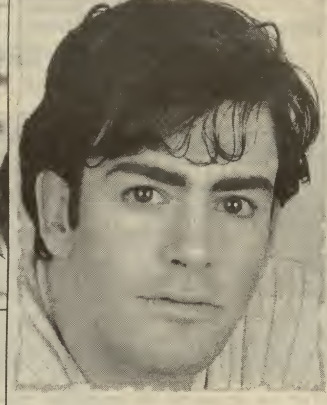
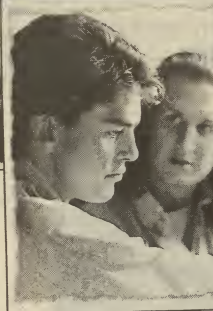
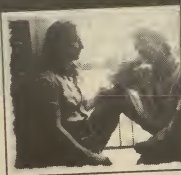
Records do not reveal why the \$35,000 donation was given or how the money was to be used. However, based on a 1993 conversation with Sheldon and judging from the timing of the money infusion, Project Tocsin's Jerry Sloan has concluded that the money was used to finance the TVC's annual Voters Guide for the 1994 election.

"Although the Internal Revenue Service requires that non-profit organizations be non-partisan and that voter guides produced by non-profits contain fair and balanced material, TVC's guides are notorious for the 'hot button' issues covered," Sloan said. "Abortion, gay rights, prayer in schools, creationism are all subjects guaranteed to elicit a programmed response from the church groups and evangelicals to whom it is distributed," he said.

"I'm appalled," Frank Ricchiazzi, a founder of the Log Cabin Republican clubs and long-time political analyst and activist, said of the \$35,000 donation. "What was the reason for it? I'm mortified by this. I just keep asking 'Why, why?'"

Ricchiazzi then asked that Tocsin research material be sent to him so that he can conduct his own investigation into reasons for the "donation" to TVC and Sheldon. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Gregory Nicholas Lawrance

April 8, 1948 - Aug. 11, 1995

Gregory passed away at 11:15 p.m. at Davies Medical Center in the presence of his loving partner. His death resulted from a brief struggle with AIDS-related lymphoma.

Born, raised and educated in England, Gregory studied history and law, eventually becoming a barrister. In 1980 he and his then partner, Alan Hord, moved to San Francisco, where they became involved in the Trocadero scene. Gregory returned to law and began practicing as a self-employed attorney.

Gregory had a wide variety of cultural interests, but he especially enjoyed classical music, opera and the ballet. He portrayed a vast range of characters as a supernumerary with the San Francisco Opera. He was also formerly a member of the Gay Men's Chorus.

In addition to keeping his body in great shape, Gregory was an avid reader, gardener and world traveler. He had a passion for architecture and a talent for learning languages. Many will remember him as a perfect English gentleman: handsome, charming and down-to-earth, with an elegant accent, beautiful eyes, and a warm and winning sense of humor.

He is survived by his mother, sister and other relatives, all in England; his many friends; his beloved kitties, Tiger and Piglet; and his partner, Eric Schwieter. ▼



Jim McMahan

Feb. 20, 1959 - Sept. 11, 1995

Jim died peacefully at his home in San Francisco. After having worked for the Dallas Symphony for many years, he moved to California in 1989 and devoted his career to the San Francisco Opera.

Those close to Jim will always remember his bright smile, quick wit, charming nature and zest for life and friends. He faced death

with serenity and hope, and was fully prepared to make his transition. Despite a long and difficult challenge with AIDS, he left us as a model of courage and dignity.

Jim shines in the memories of those he loved, especially his longtime friend, Rodney Woods of Dallas, and his family of friends, Mylene VanDyk, Ron Hull, Mark White, Fran Marx, Thom Vaneck and Jeff Hart.

We love you, Jim.
A private service will take place October 13 as Jim wished. ▼



Randy S. Johnson

Jan. 23, 1957 - Aug. 30, 1995

Randy passed away peacefully in San Francisco on August 30 at 6:55 p.m. He was surrounded by dear friends

Patti, Debbi and Jim, and Keith, his partner of seven years. Randy was born in Pottstown, Penn., and grew up in Boyertown, Penn. He was the son of Alfred Johnson and the late Pauline Johnson.

Randy served in the Air Force, where he gained his knowledge of audio-visual, which led him to his career with PROJECTION Video Services, Inc. Randy worked for PROJECTION for 14 years. His last position in the company was that of general manager for San Francisco Operations, moving here in 1989.

Besides his many friends, Randy is survived by his partner, Keith Lambert; father, Alfred Johnson; brother, Brian; sister, Brenda Marion; twin sister, Lori Ludy; three nieces; and four nephews.

A service and burial were held on September 6 in Boyertown. A celebration of Randy's life will be held here in San Francisco on Tuesday, October 24, at 6 p.m. at the San Francisco Hilton & Towers. In lieu of flowers donations in Randy's name may be made to Continuum or to Project Open Hand. ▼



Donny Boro

May 8, 1960 - Aug. 18, 1995

Donny passed away on August 18, surrounded by his family and friends.

He was born on the island of Kauai. He loved living in San Francisco but was very proud of his Hawaiian heritage, and introduced the "Hawaiian style" to everyone he met.

Donny was a handsome, lovable man, but he could also be devilish and exasperating at times. His boundless energy and fun-loving spirit were a part of his character. All his special qualities kept his dear friends by his side until it was time for him to go.

In accordance with Donny's wishes, his body was cremated, and the ashes returned to Kauai. A memorial Mass was held for him in his home town of Kilauea. It was a simple memorial but made special by his island friends singing Hawaiian songs at the end of the Mass.

His memory will live on forever in the hearts of those he left behind - his parents, Donald and Loretta Boro; sisters, Duchess and Donna; and brothers, Kevin and Kelly. He is even fondly remembered by his youngest niece, Sierra, and his other nephews and nieces.

Aloha Donny - we all love you and will always keep your memory in our hearts. ▼



Charles Alan Lings

Feb. 17, 1944 - Sept. 17, 1995

Chuck departed peacefully from this life on Sunday morning, September 17, after a valiant

four-year struggle with the AIDS virus. A native Californian, he moved to San Francisco in 1982 from Southern California in connection with his employment as an insurance claims adjuster.

Chuck was a loving man with a great sense of humor and an avid boatsman. He enjoyed being with his beloved dog Lady, libations with friends and occasional visits to the theatre.

Chuck's ashes will be spread at sea off Catalina Island, where he lovingly bid farewell to his father and mother. Besides his dog he is survived by a sister, two nieces and many friends.

Our love and peace are with you, dear friend. ▼



Richard E. Graves

Sept. 2, 1953 - Sept. 22, 1995

Richard passed away peacefully from AIDS-related lymphoma. He had many passions in life, but he was first and foremost an artist. He received a master's in fine arts from U.C. Berkeley.

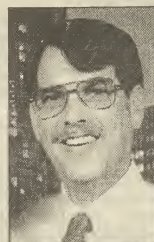
Richard was a teacher and administrator at the SF Jewish Community Center for 17 years. He loved teaching children art, and left a creative legacy to the parents and teachers of the school.

Richard's garden in his backyard was only one way in which his artistic talents manifested themselves. His garden was an inspiration to his family, friends and neighbors.

Richard moved to SF in 1972, attending SF State University. He received a BA in fine arts and early childhood education. He loved living in the Castro and participated in many neighborhood events. Richard was an avid supporter of the International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival.

Richard's sense of humor and his caring gentle support will be missed by his mother, Carol; his sisters, Carol and Susan; his brother, Robert; and his friends, Frank, Elizabeth, Shannon, James Mark, Elizabeth and Pat.

Donations in his name may be sent to Under One Roof, 2362 Market St., SF, where he volunteered. ▼



Tom Tull

Sept. 19, 1942 - Sept. 27, 1995

Tom Tull entered the heavenly kingdom, with his usual sense of grace, dignity and direction on September 27, 1995. Born September 19, 1942, he was, for his 53 years, and continues to be 'the Living Example of the Christ Within.' While resting peacefully in his home with his sister, Linda, dog, Peat, cat, Queenie and their canine cousin, Sparkle, his body succumbed to AIDS related Lymphoma.

Tom's loving heart, brilliant mind and spiritual commitment

enabled him to minister to many throughout the world. As a young man he served as a missionary with the people of Fort Yukon, Alaska. In 1973, he became Director of the National Institute of Lay Training. He was former chairperson of the Parsonage, a ministry of and with gay and lesbian Episcopalians, located in the Castro; served on the Board of Directors of Dolores Street Community Services, developer of Hope Housing, a residence for Persons with AIDS; a founder of the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition; co-chair of the Episcopal Church's 1st National AIDS Conference in 1986; and an AIDS Consultant to the World Council of Churches. Tom was a humble person who was sincerely touched when in 1989 he was the recipient of the First National AIDS Coalition Award for Outstanding Leadership and Ministry in Response to the AIDS Crisis.

He is preceded in death by his life partner of thirteen years, Ron Washburn and his parents, Mildred and Ira Tull. He is survived by his grateful sister, Linda Tull of Weaverville, N.C. and his wonderful loving family of choice.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr., SF on Sunday, October 8 at 3 p.m. No flowers please. Contributions to: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, PO Box 31526, SF, CA 94131; Dolores St. Community Services, 938 Valencia St. SF CA 94110 or National Episcopal AIDS Coalition, Suite 508, 2025 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20006.

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OBITUARIES

Donald Clemens

May 13, 1964 - Sept. 16, 1995

On the evening of September 16, Donald Clemens, surrounded by family and friends, peacefully succumbed to his valiant battle against the AIDS virus. He slipped away in the home in which he was raised in Vallejo, Calif., with his mother at his side.

Upon graduating from high school in Vallejo, Donald moved to San Francisco, where he worked and played, and received a degree in economics from the University of San Francisco. For many years he worked at the Marriott at Fisherman's Wharf, where he was loved and respected by all. Among his many talents and abilities, he loved to sew and made many beautiful things for his friends and family.

Donald never allowed the disease to define who he was, even when wracked with the pain of its debilitating decline. He was never once ashamed of his condition and was always proud of his identity as a gay man. With his tender expressions of love and his ever present understanding of the sanctity of life, he taught family and friends wisdom and compassion.

Donald is survived by his parents, Ann and Tom Clemens; his four sisters, Donna, Debbie, Carla and Kim; their respective families; and many countless friends. ▽

Ronald W. Sawhill

Dec. 12, 1953 - Sept. 23, 1995

After a long, active and brave struggle with AIDS, Ron passed away quietly into a gentler place just before 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 23. At his hospital bedside were his life partner, Dennis Colella, and his loving and supportive parents, Wayne and Lois Sawhill.

Ron was born in Winterset, Iowa. During his life, he lived in San Francisco, Boston, London, Honolulu, the Yucatan Peninsula and New York City, where we met in 1980. Ron always considered San Francisco his home and wished to return here. He did so in 1990 with his life partner.

Ron was, and still is, my bluest sky and deepest sea. His arms are the sun that always warms my heart.

In addition to his partner and his parents, Ron is survived by a sister, brother-in-law and two nephews, as well as many dear friends, especially Phillip, John, Xavier and Laura.

A private family service will be held in Winterset, Iowa, in early October. A scattering of his ashes followed by a celebration of his life was held on Saturday, September 30, in San Francisco.

Contributions in Ron's memory may be made to ACT UP/Golden Gate, AIDS Benefits Counselors or Project Open Hand. ▽

Kenn Mancuso

Dec. 31, 1945 - Sept. 20, 1995

Kenneth P. Mancuso died peacefully at his home in San Francisco of AIDS-related complications. He was surrounded by his lover, Rick; close friends, Ken and Linda; brother, Russ; sister-in-law, Cathy; and his cat, Ethel.

Kenn was born and raised in Dunkirk, N.Y., and moved to Arizona to attend Arizona State University.

He spent 1970 in San Francisco doing community service as a conscientious objector against the Vietnam War, and bartended at The Lion. In 1971 he returned to Phoenix to complete his BS in political science.

Kenn moved to D.C. in 1989, where he was affiliated with Tracks nightclub. He settled in San Francisco in 1992. He worked briefly at Project Open Hand, then joined the American Society on Aging as their conference program manager.

Kenn is survived by his lover of nine years, Rick Vaughan; his sisters, Audrey and Louise; brothers, Russ and Ron; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Contributions in his memory can be made to Project Open Hand. A memorial service will be held October 22, 11 a.m., in the Fuchsia Dell, AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park. An open house will follow. For details call 863-7827. ▽

Harris Simons

Aug. 8, 1938 - Sept. 14, 1995

Harris died in his sleep at his home on Thursday, September 14. Hailing from South Dakota, he graduated from Northwestern University and was publisher and editor of *The Shorthorn World*.

He came to San Francisco about 15 years ago and was a longtime resident of the Castro. Harris will be remembered for his love of gardening and his Christmas extravaganzas by his family of friends: Gavin and Kevin, Mark, Paul and Phil, Sandra and Dawn, and Don. He will also be remembered by his own family: his son, Bill, and his daughter, Barbara, both of whom currently reside in Florida. ▽

Bruce Harrelson

September 14, 1995

On Thursday, September 14, we lost another brother, Grand Duke XVI Bruce Harrelson.

Bruce was one of the most generous men I've known. He'd give you the shirt off his back, or give you or charity his last dime.

The last 17 years he's been so good to me—the cruises and trips and more. I miss him awfully and will the rest of my life. I was angry, Bruce, because you said you'd never leave me and would always take care of me. But it was your time, and you're still the wind beneath my wings.

Bruce leaves his loving family: mother, Estelle; brother, Gene; sister-in-law, Lori; sister, Jackie; dad, Alfred; and nephew, Jason. He didn't suffer, and now he's with other brothers and sisters. I know I'll be with you someday. —All my love, Michael Bowman

Please join us for a celebration of Bruce's life on Saturday, Oct. 21, 3 p.m.-7, at Kimo's, 1351 Polk Street. ▽

Thomas Patrick Williams

Feb. 2, 1957 - Sept. 12, 1995

A new star was born early in the morning of September 12, as Tom passed peacefully at our home. An air traffic controller until his early retirement in 1994, Tom led an active life. Born in Philadelphia, the son of William and Dorothy Williams, Tom lived in Germany, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and finally San Jose.

An avid bowler and softball player, Tom touched many lives since his arrival in the Bay Area. He left a legacy of wit, humor, love and companionship to those who knew him.

After a three-year battle with AIDS, Tom died peacefully in the arms of his loving partner, Tim Benton. In addition, Tom is survived by his parents; sisters, Pat and Joanne; and brother, Ed. Tom also leaves many friends, Colleen, Lorraine, Preston, Jim, Jackie, David and Sam; his inseparable kitties, Butch, Debbie and Jean Luc; and cockatiel, Spike. All will miss him.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on November 5, 1-5 p.m., at 355 Noe Street in San Francisco. Donations can be made in his name to the Santa Clara County Aris Project. ▽

Craig Robert Davis

Dec. 29, 1957 - Sept. 24, 1995

In fondest love and memory, we say good-bye to our friend, Craig Robert Davis. He passed on to a new life Sunday afternoon, September 24, due to complications associated with AIDS.

Born in Ankeny, Iowa, Craig grew up there until moving to Iowa City, where he earned his BA at the University of Iowa. In 1986 he relocated to San Francisco and worked at St. Francis Memorial Hospital until May 1995.

Craig's love for tennis will be remembered most by his friends. He showed his passion for life both as a player and a fan through this sport. Craig will be missed by his friends and teammates in San Francisco's GTF.

Craig leaves behind family and some very close friends. Those of us who shared his final moments here—Justin Hamaker, Cindy Ogle, Cheryl Kunkel and Jeff Stendel—wish to express our deepest love and best wishes to our dear friend, Craig Robert Davis. ▽

David Americo Vellucci

Sept. 26, 1968 - Aug. 24, 1994

David passed away on August 24, 1994, at age 25. He'd suffered many medical complications from AIDS. After being diagnosed three times with PCP over a two-year period, David's lungs collapsed ten days before he died. We were able to keep him comfortable at home. It was David's wish to be in the comfort of his own bed and be surrounded by loved ones at the time of his death. His passing was peaceful.

David was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He moved to San Francisco in 1989, where he made a new home with his new family of friends. He worked in food service and took a lot of pride in his work. When he became too sick to work, he would always say how much he missed it. David was a very funny, loving and spiritual young man. He loved to make us laugh.

David is missed very much by all the people who loved and supported him, especially his best friend and soulmate Clare, but we are all at peace knowing that his suffering is over. He continues to live with us in our hearts and spirits. ▽

"Tony" (Anthony) Welch

January 23, 1952 - September 15, 1995

Despite the loving care of Coming Home Hospice, death (and AIDS) interrupted Tony, at age 43, while his beautiful soul was still careening above his view of Twin Peaks. At his side were his partner, Alvin Taylor, (the embodiment of unconditional love) and his best friend, A.J. Esta.

Tony's zest for life plus his capacity for joy gives the term "carpe diem" a whole new meaning!

Physically, he was incredibly beautiful but it was his infectious laughter that instantly drew people to him. He had a unique sense of humor that was subtle and sly—but never unkind. And his friendship was like that of a child—full of wonder and without restrictions.

His infinite variety of interests were those of a modern Renaissance Man. He was a professional musician (drummer and singer), a gifted photographer and a gardener/carpenter ("Tony's Window-Boxes" are possessions devoutly coveted). He loved the theater and he was an insatiable traveler—English country homes, Roman ruins, the fjords of Norway. It was as if Tony were devouring all that he could of life for the short time he had it.

On Sept. 21, a formal memorial service was held for Tony in Fort Worth, Texas, attended by his mother, Doris, (who wrote the moving Eulogy), his father, Charles, two sisters, a brother and a daughter, Lytte.

Here in The City, his extended family is honoring Tony's memory by celebrating his three major passions—San Francisco, Streisand and Sondheim while honoring Tony's final, deathbed words, "Love! Love! Love!"

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Mental Health Perspective Jerome Motto, M.D. Practicing Psychiatrist	Hospice Perspective Jack Posnick, M.D. Mission Hospice Center

Moderator
Stephen C. Zollman, Esq.

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

6 - 8 p.m. (Questions from 8 - 8:45 p.m.)

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QUEER WATCH

Tales from the baths

by Michael C. Botkin

It has been a long time since I've been to a gay bathhouse. Partly it's having a pic-line sticking out of my arm, which seems to disable a lot of my cruising ability. And I'll never forget the time I left my beeping pill-box in a locker at the Hollywood Spa: its plaintive cry put a real damper on the ambience. But mostly it's my lack of self-esteem and the difficulty I have displaying my body nowadays, in contrast to the hunk I used to be. However, many of my friends still go, and I relish the stories they tell me of their visits. I get a vicarious thrill, and an intimate peek at the current state of queer sexuality, which was always the thing I liked best about the baths anyway.

The first dish is always - naturally - who else they ran into. Almost every visit is sure to produce an encounter with at least one guy who's in a supposedly monogamous relationship. Such people always pretend not to see you, rather than say hello and have to ask you not to mention seeing them there. My polite friends play along; my rude friends rush up to them in the middle of the orgy room, bellowing, "Hey, Mark! Good to see you! How's Fred?"

One friend of mine, who I'll call the Hippie, always ends up having sex with men of color at the baths. "It's not that I have anything against whites," he insists. "It's just that the Anglo gay boys there have such a chilly attitude. Their angoras may be safely tucked away in their lockers, but even when they're naked, you can't help but notice that they're stuck-up sweater fags."

But then, when he does get it

on with some hot Asian or Latino or black dude, he discovers that they assume he's interested only in men of their ethnicity, and that almost any Asian (or Latino or black) will do.

"I'm not interested specifically in Asians, or blacks or whites," he

wearing it, and he told me he did mind and that I should take it off." Although the risk of HIV is far greater for the person getting fucked than the fucker, my horrified friend declined and backed out of the room. "I assume he was positive, or will be very soon. But god only knows what other bugs he's got up his butt with such a self-destructive attitude. Ick."

However, it is also possible to find men who are well-informed and comfortable with safe sex. The notion that the baths are dangerous vectors of disease is mostly homophobic hysteria, although it was promoted by the infamous "Saint Randy" Shilts. The latest issue of *Diseased Pariah News* has an editorial denouncing Randy, mostly for making up the whole Patient Zero crap ("It was supposed to be a metaphor," Shilts, the hotshot journalist, later said in a belated admission) and for bashing the baths while, according to repeated reliable eyewitness reports, continuing to patronize them. After he'd successfully campaigned to shut them down in SF, he'd reputedly jet down to LA now and then to do the tubs there.

I don't know about this last point - unlike the previous one, I don't have firsthand eyewitnesses who can attest to it - but it is pretty clear that the baths are no major public health risk and that the flak to that end is essentially homophobic witch-hunting. Cities with baths do not have higher HIV transmission rates than those without. And self-destructive fuckpigs like the one who asked my friend to take off the condom are going to have unsafe sex no matter what we do to limit their options. One has to wonder if the bathhouse ban is intended to drive the virus to extinction, or rather the gay community. In any event, the baths persist despite repeated waves of homophobia, sexism, and AIDSphobia. You just can't stop sex; the best you can do is charge admission for it. ▼

Commentary

complains. (Notice he did not deny a specific interest in Latinos.) "Just hot men with a healthy attitude whatever their race. Why is that so hard to understand?"

It must be, we concluded, because his color-blind omnivorous attitude is, alas, fairly rare. An Asian man who's had interest expressed in him only by Anglos who are certified "rice queens" can be excused for assuming it's a general attitude.

Take it off

It is true that there's no shortage of unsafe sex going on at the baths, but it's also true that the establishments themselves push condoms and safe sex as much as possible. The Berkeley Steamworks - the major outlet for SF gays since the city shut down its own baths, the only city besides New York to do so - broadcasts hourly safe sex reminders over the PA system; provides classy, top-quality condoms; and offers free HIV testing.

On the one hand, this offers you a good excuse to return - "Gee, I've got to go to the baths this Friday to pick up my test results" - but it does raise the possibility of getting told you're positive at the beginning of a night at the tubs. Getting told you're an HIVer could conceivably put a dent in your interest in cruising for the evening.

One friend reports going with a man to his room who insisted that he remove a condom before fucking him. "I told him I didn't mind

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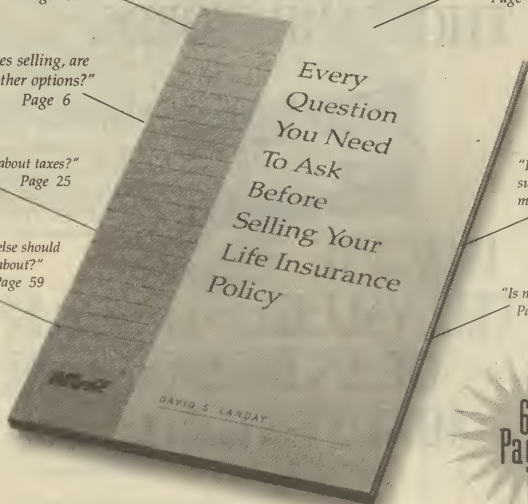
"Will selling my Insurance Policy cut into my Social Security or other benefits?"
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Brazil's New AIDS Educator Is a Dickhead ...And the Catholics hate him

United Press International

The Brazilian government's new AIDS prevention campaign lasted only two days before Roman Catholic officials condemned it. The campaign features conversations between a man and his penis, named "Braulio," about the use of condoms to prevent the spread of the disease. Catholic officials say the Health Ministry should promote abstinence rather than condom use.

Cardinal Eugenio Sales of Rio de Janeiro said the campaign "damages morality and stimulates exactly one of the principal vehicles of AIDS, sexual relations." Bishop Dadeus Grings said, "A sickness isn't fought by degrading morals and hurling people to hell. The church preaches chastity and is opposed to the use of prophylactics."

"The church is highly concerned about preserving human dignity and can't agree with the methods adopted to fight AIDS," said Grings.

Not everyone is opposed to the campaign, however: an association in Brazil's Minas Gerais state bestowed its 1995 "Macho of the Year" award on Braulio the day after the Catholics denounced it.

The winner of that award is normally named in January, but judges

of the Macho Movement said they decided to give the honor to Braulio (who lusts after both men and women in the campaign) on September 20, because they doubted they would find a more spectacular show of masculinity in the remaining three months of the year.

Previous Macho of the Year awards were granted to former president Itamar Franco, after he danced with a semi-naked model during the 1994 Carnival, and to soccer player Nonato, who kicked a woman referee during a championship match.

The ad has also come under so much fire from Brazilians named Braulio, officials said they are searching for another name.

Jose Araujo, who heads a Brazilian group that has advised the government in its campaign, called for an end to the "foolishness" over the name.

"Every day that the campaign is suspended, one or more people will be contaminated with the AIDS virus. The Health Ministry should be discussing the use of new medicines, not the name of a penis," he said.

The Brazilian Consulate in San Francisco confirmed to the *Bay Area Reporter* that a new name had been chosen, but no one could confirm what it was. ▼

ICAAC reportback: women

by Virg E. Parks,
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

This is the second of several "reportbacks" written by ACT UP/Golden Gate members who attended the recent Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) held in San Francisco. Last week the findings of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group study on combination therapy were reported. Future articles will also discuss other general research; this one focuses on women-specific research.

Spanking the pharmaceuticals

ICAAC is an annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, where thousands of studies regarding cancer and other diseases are presented. In recent years, an increasing percentage of the presentations have regarded HIV/AIDS.

At high noon on the first day of the conference, ACT UP/Golden Gate held the first demonstration ever in the 35 years of ICAAC. Its purpose was to enlighten conference attendees (a rather conservative crowd) on the reprehensible behavior of many pharmaceutical companies — especially regarding expanded access and profiteering.

The conference organizers feared we would disrupt the meeting, the convention center security were prepared for civil disobedience (there were almost as many police as protesters), the police were relatively cooperative, and the onlookers didn't know what to expect. What they got was street theatre.

Several ACT UP/GG members played the part of pharmaceutical representatives gone-back-to-school while another played the school master. The demo/play ended with corporal punishment for all. The demo was the buzz of the bathrooms all week and responsible for recruitment of at least one pharmaceutical spy.

HIV pathogenesis in women

Two French studies and one from a Palo Alto researcher may eventually provide some insight into the pathogenesis of HIV infection in women, as well as infectibility of cervicovaginal secretions. French researchers documented increased levels of HIV enhancing cytokines in vaginal secretions.

Cytokines are sort of like growth factor for immune cells, including those infected with HIV. The French also reported decreased production of the immunoglobulins IgA1 and IgA2 in the cervicovaginal secretions of women with progressed AIDS. These immunoglobulins are thought to provide some protective value against HIV.

The AIDS Research Center in Palo Alto and Harvard University measured HIV levels in vaginal secretions of HIV-positive women. Measurable amounts of HIV were found by ICDp24, PCR, and bDNA throughout the entire menstrual cycle — with ICDp24 having the most variability between labs.

PID, BV, HPV, and cervical dysplasia

Researchers from the CDC, University of Miami, and Mount Sinai Medical Center observed 43 HIV-positive and 162 negative women with PID. They found that HIV+ women presented with more progressed disease although the women in this study did not

delay seeking care.

Researchers felt this suggests that HIV has a biologic effect on PID.

The HIV+ women responded well to a full 4-10 day course of therapy as did negative women, although not quite as well over 2-3 days. This suggests that not only should HIV-positive women seek treatment for PID and its causes (such as Chlamydia infection), but be certain to complete therapy.

Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) is a fairly common gynecological

Commentary

infection that can be sexually transmitted. Data were presented on 427 HIV+ and 290 HIV- women enrolled in a multisite study headed by the CDC looking at rates of BV and other sexually transmitted diseases. All the women had participated in similar HIV risk behavior; and matched by age and ethnicity. HIV status or immunosuppression did not factor into the risk of BV. However, women with BV were less likely to use condoms, more likely to have douches in the last 48 hours, currently using IV drugs, or had more than one sexual partner.

Although not HIV-specific, some interesting research was presented regarding Human Papillomavirus (HPV, genital warts). Researchers at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins investigated the occurrence and outcome of cervical HPV infection among 416 sexually active college women (ages ranging from 18-35) who attended a clinic for routine gyn care. Researchers collected behavioral information and pap smears from the women every six months. At enrollment, HPV was detected in 35% of the women. Most of those women had cancer-associated types of HPV. Independent predictors of infection included older age, higher number of sexual partners, and failure to always use condoms.

A group at the University of British Columbia produced information from a Canadian database regarding prevalence of cervical dysplasia (a pre-cancerous condition) in the general population and compared this to a cohort of HIV+ women followed over several years. Although the study revealed that cervical dysplasia was more prevalent in HIV-positive women, most dysplasia was mild or moderate and no aggressive progression was noted. This differs from previous studies which have suggested more severe dysplasia in immune-compromised women. CD4 counts were not included in this abstract.


Several studies regarding sexually transmitted diseases stressed the need to provide education regarding HIV at STD clinics and visa versa. One abstract suggested that it is not so much the fact that a woman has an STD which puts her at risk of HIV infection as the environmental, socioeconomic and demographic factors which put her at risk of both infections — concluding that STD and HIV prevention efforts should be directed at communities as well as individuals.

Genital/perianal warts

Regarding treatment of genital and perianal warts, a trial of Imiquimod Cream (3M Pharmaceuticals) in HIV-negative subjects was presented. Imiquimod Cream (IQ) stimulates the production of interferon and other cytokines. Previous research had documented a 40% clearance (of warts) rate when used 3

days/week for eight weeks. This study was designed to see if IQ cream used nightly (with two different dosages) for sixteen weeks or until clearance, would be more effective without increased toxicity. 71% of patients (49 of 94) on 5% cream used daily had complete clearance with nine recurrences compared to 16% (13 of 90) clearance on 1% cream with two recurrences. Although the abstract did not provide a detailed gender breakdown (and I missed the presentation), it did say that clearance rates were higher in women than in men, possibly because of increased mucosal drug penetration. Skin irritations were common but considered tolerable. However, this brings to mind concerns regarding increased risk of HIV infection or other STDs if safe sex is not practiced consistently by patients using IQ or similar creams. Changes in lab values which might suggest increased toxicity were not observed in the higher dosages.



Preliminary data were also presented on two Herpes Simplex vaccines. One produced by Chiron Biocine in Emeryville, was administered by intramuscular injections to HIV-negative women with and without herpes infections. Virtually every patient had specific immune responses to the vaccine as determined by IgG and IgA levels in cervical fluids. Another vaccine that involves immunization with a particular HSV gene is being researched in mice, OH. Although preliminary, the immunizations produced B and T cell responses in the animals. ▼



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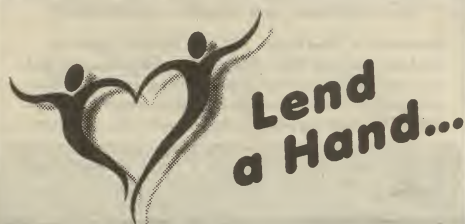
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COMMUNITY NEWS

History

Continued from page 1

Milk Library, "The Edge of Revolt," was a retrospective look at pre-Stonewall politics in San Francisco.

"What it's really doing is displaying the history of lesbian and gay books being published," explained McCowan. Part of this job includes dispelling the myth that *The Well of Loneliness* and *Rubyfruit Jungle* were the only examples of serious lesbian literature before post-Stonewall feminist publishing houses of the 1970s made it a little easier for lesbian fiction to flourish. This month's exhibit includes about 20 serious lesbian-themed novels that were published before 1950, all written by a lesbian author and positive in content.

Many novels and short stories written by gay men will also be exhibited, and McCowan noted the differences between lesbians and gay men, especially before Stonewall. "The boys have always had some access to mainstream publishing," she said, and were able to create openly gay characters in serious pieces of writing. "They got hardback sales," she also observed, "and got reviewed."

McCowan said that the current trend of lesbian mysteries and romances are direct literary descendants of earlier pulp fiction. Thousands of lesbian pulp books were written between 1952 and 1965, she said, with 90 percent of it actually written by up-and-coming male writers like John MacDonald. "It's really the first genre that we've got," she said. Those books originally sold for 35 cents, but now many go for \$50 or more. "A number of these are rare, some are valuable."

The Harvey Milk library is located at 3553 16th Street, near Market. Call 554-9445 for library hours.

The costumer is always right

McCowan also worked on the historical windows on display at A Different Light Bookstore this month. From now through October 15, a video of the Widow Norton's Annual Procession to the Emperor Norton's Graveside in Colma will play at the Castro Street bookstore.

The show will feature a 100-year-old outfit worn by the



Photo: Rick Gerhartner

T-shirts testify. "History on Fabric: 20 Years of T-Shirts" is one of four exhibits mounted by the GLHS to honor October as Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual History Month. The shirts are on display at High Gear at Castro and 19th.

widow, otherwise known as Jose Sarria, the first openly gay mayoral candidate, who once exited San Francisco in a hot air balloon.

From October 16 through 22, a 14-piece drag costume of the 1950s worn by the "Baroness von Dickoff" will be on display.

Then, from October 23 through Halloween, five costumes previously worn by Sylvester will be displayed. McCowan told the B.A.R. that people frequently ask to see his costumes since "Sylvester was such a part of the history of the Castro."

"The reason for the short time [of each display] is basically for preservation," he said. "You can only display clothing for so long before light and the heat starts to make them disintegrate."

To further prevent damage, strips of UV coating will be placed on the inside of the windows.

Shirts happen

Speaking of window displays, 20 years of gay-themed T-shirts will be shown at High Gear on Castro and 19th streets through October 31. That display, according to exhibit organizer Jim Duggins, is "the story of a people," and was created to force people to think differently about the concept of history. "All too often," he said, "people think of history as culture." The shirts on display are part of the 400-plus shirts in the Gay and Lesbian History Society archives, half of which are political in nature.

"Celebrating Diversity: We Are Everywhere, History on Fabric" contains 27 shirts representing five areas: professional organizations, social organizations, arts and literature, recreation, and sports. They include one of the original Gay Olympics shirts; one from San Francisco General Hospital's AIDS ward, Ward 5A; Gay American Indians; Lavender Godzilla (GAPA); Living Sober; the 1989 March on Washington; Gay Men's Chorus; Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators; the UC Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance; and Stanford University's gay organization, "Out on the Farm."

Organizers avoided including any commercial shirts from bars, bathhouses, or restaurants, according to Duggins, because "we didn't want to slight anyone, and we don't have all of them."

This is one of the few opportunities to view the shirts, although Duggins said that will change once they are photographed by volunteers and catalogued on CD-ROM disks.

Call the GLHS for information if you have t-shirts that you would like to donate. The new phone

number at the GLHS is (415) 777-5455.

Educational environment

The first major Northern California conference to discuss gays in an educational setting will be held Saturday, October 14 at Holy Names College in Oakland. Sponsored by BANGLE and Gay and Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN), it will include over 40 workshops on making schools safe for gay students, parents, and educators. Keynote speakers will include California Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammann. Ben Backus of East Bay BANGLE said, "One of our goals is getting increased participation by straight teachers."

Other scheduled speakers include Bay Area Reporter contributor and teacher Nancy Boutlier, who will be part of a panel on homophobia in athletics; Ken Athey from Hayward LAMBDA; Mary Griffith, founder of Contra Costa P-FLAG; and Kevin Jennings, the founder and current Executive Director of GLSTN, who recently edited an anthology of queer history lessons, *Becoming Visible: A Reader in Gay and Lesbian History for High School and College Students*.

Award-winning filmmakers Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen will talk about their latest work, *Don't Look The Other Way*, a documentary on how to prevent homophobia among school-age children. Representatives will also be on hand from Digital Queers, Pacific Center, San Leandro High School's gay/straight alliance, and Amnesty International; as will Kevin Gogan, coordinator of gay and lesbian student support services in the SF Unified School District, Jesse Greenman of the P.E.R.S.O.N. Project, and Augie Scornaienchi, Superintendent of Alameda County schools.

Holy Names College is located at 3500 Mountain Boulevard in Oakland. Registration will start at 8 a.m. For directions call (510) 436-1000. To pre-register call Bob Latham at (510) 234-3429. The cost for students is \$30; Bangle and GLSTN members \$40; and others, \$50. Registration plus membership in both groups is \$65. Add \$5 for same-day registration.

One special day

San Francisco Bay Area Network Gay Lesbian Educators (BANGLE) is holding a national Coming Out Day celebration Wednesday, October 11. Call (415) 789-7643 for more information. ▽

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: OGERKI is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at 2241 CHESTNUT ST., SAN FRANCISCO CA 94123 with an ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES license. DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL, 185 BERRY STREET, SUITE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107.

Sept. 21, 28, 1995. Oct. 5, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198622
The following person(s) are doing business as BOTH COASTS BOOK COMPANY, 882 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. LUCY BERNHOLZ, 882 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 and MARTHA JOAN BERNHOLZ, 325 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 11, 1995. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed LUCY BERNHOLZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 11, 1995.

Sept. 21, 28, 1995 Oct. 5, 12, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 962794

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MICHAEL ANTHONY GERRARD for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that MICHAEL ANTHONY GERRARD has filed an application proposing that name be changed to ARIEL S. DUNEAUX. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before the Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of November, 1995, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change on name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 22nd day of September, 1995.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 972728

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of LAWRENCE MICHAEL LISK for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that LAWRENCE MICHAEL LISK has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to MICHAEL STEVENS. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before the Court in Department X-4 on the 6th day of November, 1995, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change on name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 25th day of September, 1995.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198625
The following person(s) are doing business as B & B TECHNOLOGY, 116 Heartford Way, American Canyon, CA 94589. ED BELTON, 116 Heartford Way, American Canyon, CA 94589 and LORETTA BELTON, 116 Heartford Way, American Canyon, CA 94589. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 11, 1995. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Signed ED BELTON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 11, 1995.

Sept. 21, 28, 1995 Oct. 5, 12, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198698

The following person(s) are doing business as THE UPSTAIRS MAID, 1755 Franklin Street, #402, San Francisco, CA 94109. MARWICK KANE, 1755 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 13, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MARWICK KANE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 13, 1995.

1995 Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198989

The following person(s) are doing business as NEW LIFE PERSPECTIVES, 1876 Market Street, Suite G, San Francisco, CA 94102. GARY LEE SCHULTZ, 583 Green Ridge Drive, #9, Daly City, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 24, 1995. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Signed GARY LEE SCHULTZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 26, 1995.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198429

The following person(s) are doing business as BA BA LOONS AND TUNES, 3675 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. JOHN J. TURANO, 2235 43rd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 and GRANT O. THOMPSON, 3675 19th San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 5, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed JOHN TURANO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 05, 1995.

Sept. 14, 21, 28, 1995 Oct. 5, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198646

The following person(s) are doing business as SUNNYSIDE OF LIFE TRADING COMPANY, 1660 Sacramento Street, Suite 11, San Francisco, CA 94109. Rainer Peter Klimek, 1660 Sacramento Street, Suite 11, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 12, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rainer P. Klimek. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 12, 1995.

Sept. 28, 1995, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 1995.

B.A.R. CLASSIFIEDS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198659
The following person(s) are doing business as A & D APPLIANCE SERVICES, 234 6th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. ABRAHAM K. ALVARAZ. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 01, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ABRAHAM ALVARAZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 12, 1995.

Sept. 21, 28, 1995 Oct. 5, 13, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198768
The following person(s) are doing business as W.E.L. TAX SERVICE, 1728 Union Street, Suite 102, San Francisco, CA 94123. WILLIAM E. LENTINI, 887 42nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 18, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed WILLIAM LENTINI. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 18, 1995.

Sept. 21, 28, 1995 Oct. 5, 12, 1995.

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Being a known donor gives Gay Men, who do not want to raise children, an opportunity to have children in their lives, connects them to Lesbian families, and helps build community. Many Lesbians want donors to play "uncle" to their children. The demand for known donors is much greater than the supply. Rainbow Flag Health Services is recruiting donors of all ethnic backgrounds. If you are healthy, under 55 years old and are interested in being a known donor call for an appointment **(510)763-7737**

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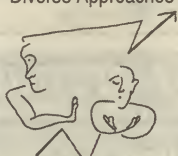
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John Waters Brings 'Shock Value' to Solo Mio Fest

Photo: Philip Caruso

Return of the Vulpine Vulgarian

by John Blanco

Filmmaker John Waters has probably had a bigger hand in shaping queer humor than anyone else over the past 25 years. We quote lines from his movies the way our nelly forefathers must have quoted the witticisms of Oscar Wilde a century ago. (Nobody asked, but my vote for the best Waters couplet goes to, "I love you more than my hair color. I love you more than my own shit" from *Pink Flamingos*.)

With his brilliant wit and wealth of charisma, the forever Baltimore-based Waters is a natural-born stand-up comic. The 49-year-old director has been displaying his off-the-cuff funniness as an occasional guest on Comedy Central's *Politically Incorrect* lately, but, unfortunately, smug, self-enamored host Bill Maher and dull fellow panelists make that show nearly unwatchable. A much better setting for Waters' comedy will be the Cowell Theater, where he's bringing his "Shock Value" rant this weekend as part of this year's Solo Mio Festival.

Waters describes the theme of his comic monologue as "the thin line between good bad taste and bad bad taste." Of course Waters has been the national arbiter in all matters of bad taste ever since his zero-budget *Pink Flamingos* became an underground cult hit over two decades ago.

Continued on page 34

Something for Everyone

by Daniel Mangin



Josiane Balasko,
Victoria Abril, and
Alain Chabat in
Josiane Balasko's
Gazon Maudit

Queer Mill Valley Films Have Broad Appeal

When *Torch Song Trilogy* was in initial release, Harvey Fierstein defined the difference between it and other films with lesbian or gay characters: "Most movies involve a gay person in a straight world or a gay story set in a straight world. This is a gay story set in a gay world—where the heterosexuals only come in to torture us."

Torch Song stood out in an era when few mainstream films with queer content got made at all. Owing to Matthew Broderick's presence it "crossed over" somewhat, though the

bulk of its patrons appeared to be from the gay community. In the '90s, producers are less skittish about gay topics, but the relatively meager grosses of *Bar Girls*, *Jeffrey* and other recent works indicate the need to supply "something for everyone"—characters and situations to which the majority audience can directly relate—to entice large numbers into theatres.

It may only be coincidence, but the lesbians and gays in three of the four queer-tinged features in this year's Mill Valley Film

Continued on page 32

Hard-Boiled

by Chris Culwell

To Die For, gay director Gus Van Sant's latest film, from a script by Buck Henry, is being trumpeted hither and yon as a breakthrough satirical black comedy about America's obsession with the media, only it's not very funny and its insights into our cultural habits are nothing we haven't heard before.

What Van Sant and Henry call satire in this story of a dismal shrew who does away with her husband so she can pursue fame and glamour is little more than a vulgar broadside whose satirical elements quickly degenerate into obvious and heavily underlined sarcasm. Satire is supposed to be subtle. It operates through subtext, irony and indirection. Not so in *To Die For*, which has all the subtlety of a doomed airliner. Were it not for the memorable performances of Nicole Kidman and the strangely mysterious

Continued on page 40



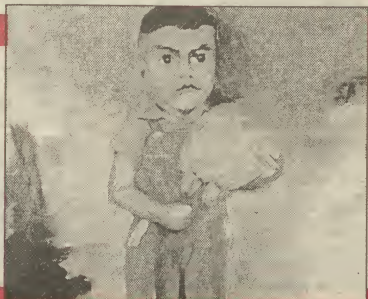
Nicole Kidman,
Joaquin Phoenix,
Casey Affleck and
Alison Folland in
Gus Van Sant's
To Die For

Photo: Kerry Hayes

ART

Open
Studios
turns 20

pages
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INTERVIEW

Erin Blackwell
and *Fruit*
editor
Anne-christine
d'Adesky

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THEATRE

Gomez-Pena
at
Solo Mio
Festival

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OUT THERE

by Pithy Galore
and Justin Zane

Desperate to pull ourselves out of the financial mire of gay journalism, a fight erupted among your Out There scribes over *Untold Millions: Positioning Your Business for the Gay and Lesbian Consumer Revolution*. The exciting new tome from Grant Luckenbill found its way into our palatial B.A.R. offices early last week. After much hair-pulling, Pithy Galore snagged the book

and headed off in search of seven figures (to go with her several chins).

Untold Millions offers a lot of sensible advice to entrepreneurial types, but what about the high praise for the gay catalog business Shocking Gray? Hate to spoil the money-printing party, but isn't this the same joint that went belly up, leaving hundreds of gay concerns, including a much-beloved local nonprofit, holding the bag?

Luckenbill writes that "Shocking Gray's success underscores once again the importance

of being perceived as not only first, but as a consistent, dependable product or service leader within the gay and lesbian community." Pithy couldn't agree more, but even she realizes there's one other essential element: Gotta pay those bills or into Chapter 7 you go.

Some big wigs at Atlantic Records must have read Luckenbill's book, for the record label has taken the extraordinary step of creating a department devoted solely to marketing music to queers. "It's pioneering," Peter Galvin, Atlantic's new VP of product development for gay markets, told the *Los Angeles Times* last week. Galvin, 32, is the former music editor of *Interview* magazine.

Atlantic's new department will kick off with record projects for gay icon Bette Midler, veteran singer-songwriter Bruce Roberts and '70s dance pop legend Laura Branigan.

Gavin also told the *Times*, "It would be nice if gay people were exposed to more rock 'n' roll that spoke directly to their experience of being gay, whatever that means." To this end, Gavin hopes to give increased exposure to performers who aren't afraid to use same-sex lyrics in their songs. One such band is LA's Extra Fancy, who've been offered a special deal by Gavin and Atlantic. Memo to Elton, Melissa and k.d.: get with the program, kids.

Frameline and the SF AIDS Foundation held their third annual Safe Sex Video Awards show at the Castro, September 28. Joan Jett Blakk (wig no longer askew) emceed. The most scintillating snippets by all accounts were the three introductory pieces, which weren't part of the contest. Good submitted work was on the sparse side this year, shocking considering the reputation this town has for sexual activity. Maybe we're all too busy humping to turn the cameras on. Better luck (fuck?) next year, though we hear rumors this may have been the last go-round.

Stepford Joans: Did someone say Joan Jett Blakk? We're just agog at how she gets around. Her patter is just so popular. Joan will be at it again at the end of October when she co-hosts "Nightmare at the Kabuki," a benefit at the Kabuki Theatre for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Immune Enhancement Project. The event is some sort of live performance and costume contest that will culminate in a showing of the *Other* Joan's (her wig was never askew) timeless 1967 horror flick, *Beserk*. Columbia Pictures has provided a studio print of the film especially for the event, which will also feature screenings of trailers for *Andy Warhol's Trash*, *The Christine Jorgensen Story* and *What's the Matter With Helen?* Mark your calendars: October 26. For information, call the *Beserk* hotline, 437-5794. Tom Ammann, Scott O'Hara, Arturo Galster, Jerome Caza and others will be on hand.

With all the talk from Republicans about cutting Federal support for the arts, it's more than a little ironic that The Dan Quayle Center and Museum in Huntington, Indiana has received two grants from the Institute of Museum Services, a Federal agency that awards money to museums throughout the country. According to *The New York Times*, the grants totaled \$8,485, not a lot of money most would agree, but even two cents given to anything in the name of Dan Quayle is a waste of good money.

The Dan Quayle Center and Museum, according to the *Times*, displays such timeless and precious Quayle memorabilia as the former



Joan 1 and Joan 2

Vice President's Little League uniform, baseball bat and "his high school letter sweater." (No mention in the *Times* piece about that famous book he was reading in the Oval Office the day the Gulf War broke out.) Quayle wouldn't comment on the apparent funding flap, said the *Times*, but the museum's flack, Michael Sellon, did, sort of: "This is not Federal arts funding," he screeched like a queen in heat. "It's museum funding." Thank God he clarified that.

@ aolrrrr/55st.bigfag: Have you noticed lately how everybody seems to be World Wide Webbing and dotcoming? Center for the Arts, Hollywood Supports, Billy Blue Menswear on Geary St. all now have e-mail addresses and World Wide Web numbers. Sure does clutter up that letterhead. The San Francisco Opera is online, too, at <http://www.sfopera.com>. (We're sure that this foray into the *fin de siècle* will guarantee a sterling run of *Die Walkure* in November.)

But why are all these e-mail addresses so darn impersonal and boring? Why don't we live things up a bit? For instance, Sweet Lips is thinking of going online as 90proofaol.com. John Karr is www.kneepads.com and Pithy Galore is <http://www.grabmythickbeer.com>. Of course none of these names compare with the one chosen by the snazzy local press agent known as Scorpio Boy. Is it true what they say about Scorpio?

An Out There pal jetted recently to London, where the gay theatre boom continues. Patrick Wilde's *What's Wrong With Angry?* moved to the West End after two productions elsewhere. Wilde's play deals with the effects of Britain's age of consent laws on gay teens. "How does the law protect them, and from what?" the play asks. Wilde wrote *What* after someone told him how much easier it is for young queers to come out today. Maybe so, but it's still difficult, and there's injustice built into the system since the age of consent for gays is 18, while for straights it's 16.

One of the characters in *What* is trying to come out. He asks his teacher for help, but the teacher is reluctant to assist him because he's afraid he might be jailed. The teen heads to the gay ghetto, but finds the community too preoccupied with frivolous pursuits to concern themselves with the needs of gay youth. If this sounds like a lecture, it's apparently not. "The issues are presented with much humor," says our source. Wilde is currently adapting the play for the screen, though it may hit these shores on the stage first.

Our pal also took in *Burning Blue*, mentioned in this column a few weeks back. *Blue* concerns two military pilots investigating a friend's crash. The play also investigates sexuality. Mr. X reports, "It's got cute guys and lots of nudity. The production gives the audi-

ence the sensation of flying. The men talk a lot while in flight, including sex. A relationship develops between two men in *Burning Blue*, which leads to a crisis."

Our man in London got more nude action in Madrid, where he took in a production of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* The play translates quite well into Spanish, he says. (Yes, but how does their guy measure up to Randy Becker?)

Greg Louganis has always had a reputation for downplaying his image—he's such a relaxed '90s kinda guy. But when it comes to his image in posterity, Greg is surprisingly picky (if not a bit deluded). Liz Smith reports that Miss Louganis wants superhunk Keanu Reeves to play him in the TV movie of the swim champ's autobiography *Breaking the Surface*. Louganis told Smith he thought it was "unlikely" Reeves would do it (yes, that's true, darling), but that Reeves is "my ideal."



Greg Louganis

We're crushed and devastated. Lawrence Hellman (producer, *Sex Is...*) called this week to tell us that Carol Lynley will not, repeat, not sing "The Morning After" at November's Sick and Twisted *Poseidon Adventure* Fashion Show at the Castro Theatre. Says Hellman, Lynley "hates that song." That's odd, seeing as it did, well, put her on the map, so to speak. But who will sing the song? Certain names have been floated, but only Carole Migden and Mr. Marcus (can you imagine?) have made the short list. How about Joan Jett Blakk? The event takes place Friday, November 10 and tickets are on sale now at A Different Light Bookstore. Dress up as your favorite character.

Finally, we're all dying to know if there's any truth to the rumor going around that Examiner art critic David Bonetti is a big fan of *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*? If so, what must he think of the perfectly awful *Central Park West*? ▼

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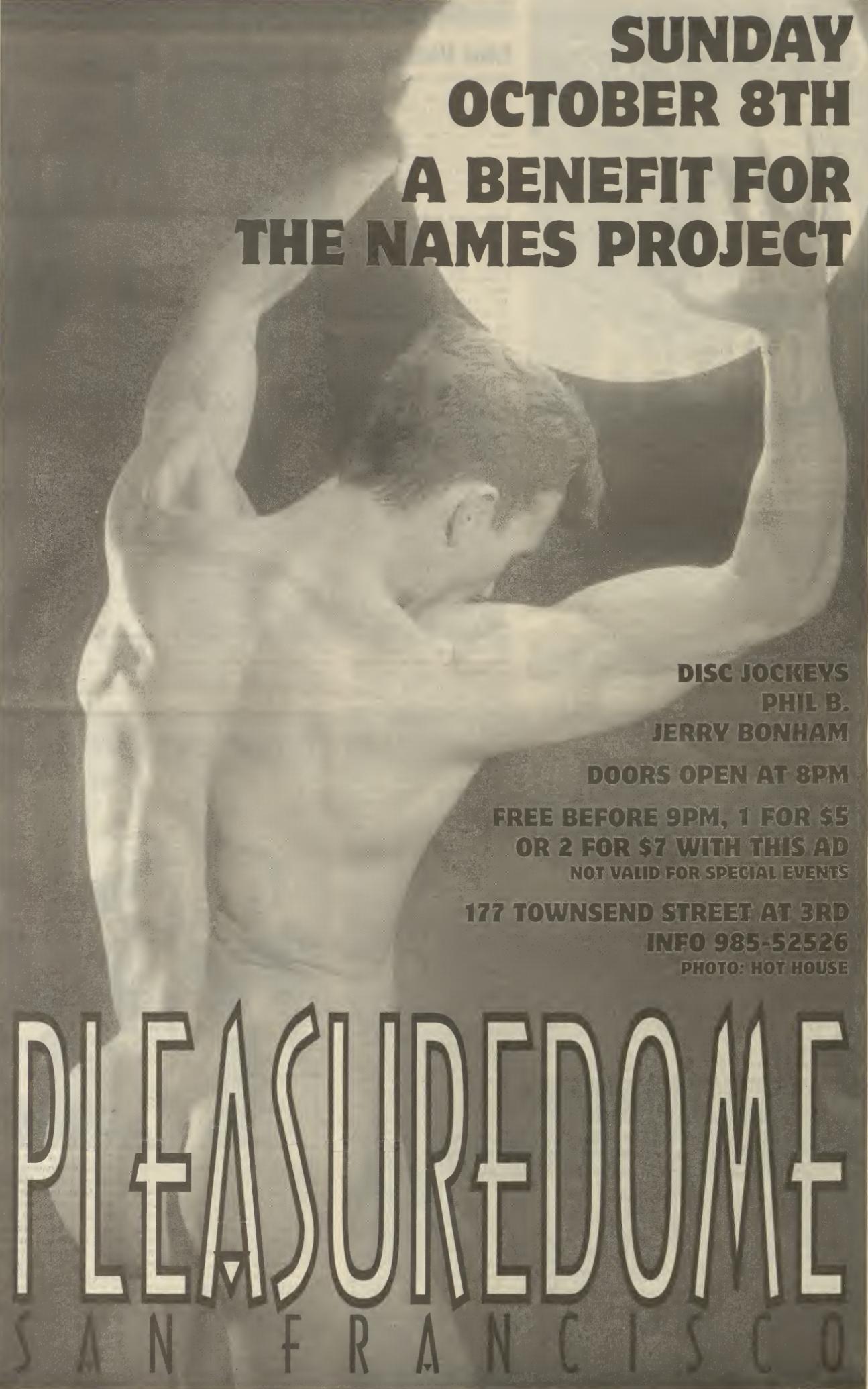


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FILM

Mill Valley

Continued from cover

Festival exist in a decidedly straight universe. On the plus side, this strategy is more realistic: most of us do not immerse ourselves in totally gay milieus. One wonders, though, why so many viewers find it difficult to appreciate the universality of incidents in queer folks' lives.

Hubby out, dyke in

In *Bushwhacked* (a.k.a. "Gazon Maudit," French slang for "dyke"), Marijo, a butch lesbian (played by director Josiane Balasko), befriends Loli (Victoria Abril), a housewife whose husband (Alain Chabat) is cheating on her. When Loli decides Marijo can give her the tenderness her spouse cannot, she kicks him out of her bed and invites Marijo in.

Though this scenario may sound like a recipe for stereotyping, Balasko instead crafts the best lesbian comedy of the year. With its deft delineation of the shifting power dynamic of a three-way homo/hetero relationship, *Bushwhacked* is also the season's most sophisticated lesbian film — if one can apply this label at all, given the equal focus on heterosexual concerns. (Note: If you miss *Bushwhacked* at Mill Valley, look for it in January, perhaps under another moniker. Its distributor, Miramax, is pondering new titles so as to avoid confusion with the same-named 20th-Century Fox film.)

The old switcheroo

Marijo happens into the married woman's life when her car breaks down near Loli's house and the lesbian keeps fabricating reasons to return. A similar manipulation of events brings together the protagonists of *When Night Is Falling*, the latest from Patricia Rozema (*I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*). The first meeting of Camille (Pascale Bussières), a divinity college professor and Petra (Rachel Crawford), a circus performer, takes place at a laundrette, the second when Petra returns Camille's clothing, which she'd deliberately switched with hers.

Camille is engaged to one of her male colleagues (Henry Czerny), but slowly realizes that she's lesbian. *Night* has pacing problems early on, but the narrative coalesces about halfway through. Audacious Petra helps Camille accept her true nature and Camille provides Petra a certain stability she's been lacking prior to their acquaintance.

Forced farce

Nobody Loves Me, Doris Dorrie's farce about a just-turning-30 airport security guard named Fanny Fink (Maria Schrader) who can't find love, has been described as "Felliniesque." Unfortunately, *Nobody* is closer to late Fellini than the master's best work; despite Dorrie's inventive use of the camera and her film's snappy art direction, the whole endeavor feels forced. The direc-



Maria Schrader and Pierre Sanoussi-Bliss in *Nobody Loves Me*

tor keeps trying to top herself with one crazy scene after another and eventually can't.

In her search for a man, Fanny turns to her palm-reading neighbor Orfeo (Pierre Sanoussi-Bliss), who, for a double whammy of exoticism, is gay and black. Petra in *Night* is also black, but though her race is acknowledged, it doesn't seem to be fueling her perky persona the way Orfeo's is. For a film with many sardonic moments, there's precious little irony during Orfeo's late-in-the-game, rueful declaration that he was born into the wrong family, time and place and hasn't got the "right color" skin. "What do I

have?" he asks plaintively.

One doesn't mean here to chide Dorrie for political incorrectness, but rather lack of originality: this type of hyperactive but ultimately woebegone black gay character is tired, however sympathetic he may be or proficiently Sanoussi-Bliss may play him. Though Orfeo provides some of *Nobody's* most amusing moments, he's also symptomatic of its shortcomings.

More quirky characters

I've either lost my taste for "quirky" characters or I'm getting bored with the art-house-film vari-

Continued on page 33

Noir or Never



The Roxie Cinema kicks off three weeks of film noir screenings with Robert Aldrich's *Kiss Me Deadly*, one of the genre's nastier examples. Ralph Meeker stars as Mickey Spillane's low-rent detective Mike Hammer (above). Moments after he picks up a frantic Cloris Leachman on a deserted road, she's killed by some goons who are after her secret, about which she's left Hammer just enough info to get himself in way over his head. *Kiss Me Deadly* plays Oct. 6-12, followed by 13 one-night double bills. Some are acknowledged classics, like Stanley Kubrick's *The Killing* and Nicholas Ray's *In a Lonely Place*. Others, such as the Panavision drama *Brainstorm*, produced and directed by William Conrad, overstep noir conventions. Jeff Hunter plays a straight-laced scientist who earns a peck of trouble for saving the boss's wife (Anne Francis) when he finds her asleep in her Lincoln at a railroad crossing. Another highlight: Gypsy Rose Lee as a lesbian (don't blink or you'll miss the clue) in *The Screaming Mimi*, directed by Gerd Oswald, later famous for some pivotal *The Outer Limits* episodes. Phone 415/863-1087 for show information.

—Daniel Mangin

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Nadja: Dressed Up, Nowhere to Go Lezzie Vampires from SoHo

by Greta Christina

So, Nadja (Elina Löwensohn), the title character in Michael Almereyda's *Nadja*, is Count Dracula's daughter, see, and she's living in New York in the '90s and dressing in black and wearing lots of eyeliner and longing for love. She seduces and vampirizes a girl, Lucy (Galaxy Craze), who's living with a guy but is obviously a closet dyke 'cuz she has a really great haircut. Nadja's also hunting for her undead twin brother Edgar (Jared Harris), so she can destroy him and get Dad's apartment. And Peter Fonda is Dr. Van Helsing, a vampire hunter everyone thinks is nuts (maybe if he had better hair they'd take him more seriously). So Van Helsing and his nephew Jim (Martin Donovan) track Nadja down, and they find out that Jim's girlfriend is the chick that Nadja seduced and zombified. Then some stuff happens, and then some other stuff happens, and then it ends.

As you can tell, I was deeply engaged by this movie.

Nadja is very pretty, I'll give it that. It has good, classy black-and-white photography (by Jim DeNault), and many of the actors are very nice to look at. Very nice, in fact. I was especially enamored of Renfield (Karl Geary), Nadja's sensitive, long-haired slave-boy, and Edgar, Nadja's sensitive, long-haired vampire brother, and Lucy, Nadja's tomboy girlfriend. They have those odd, jagged kind of good looks. You won't find them in *Tiger Beat* magazine, but they do turn over the old engine—for a while, anyway.

But basically, *Nadja* is a waste of time. It's slow and dull and self-consciously arty, chock-full of what my friend Marian calls vampire angst, and it takes itself way too seriously. (The executive producer is David Lynch; why am I not surprised?) There's not much sex, either, which is a shame given all the pretty people running around.

And the lesbian stuff is just the same old same old. The "real" lesbian/bi character, Nadja, is a seducer, a predator, a corrupter of innocence, who leeches off the lifeblood of nice het women because (literally, in this case) she has no life of her own. The girl she



Elina Löwensohn as Nadja

seduces, Lucy, is really a nice girl, just misguided, and once she's freed from the hypnotizing spell of the nasty lezzie vampire woman, she goes back to her man where she belongs. Gag, yawn. The movie doesn't have enough original vision or erotic energy to get away with this crap.

If you're a fan of arty camera-work, or if you like looking at pretty people on a movie screen, or if you're reeeeeeaaally into vampires, I suppose *Nadja* might be worthwhile. But probably not. Rent *Interview with the Vampire* instead. It'll be much more fulfilling. ▼

Nadja opens Friday, October 6 at the Castro Theatre, the Shattuck Theatre in Berkeley and Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto.

Mill Valley

Continued from page 32

ation. Amanda Plummer turns in an attention-getting performance as Eunice, a deranged lesbian (or bisexual, depending on how one perceives these matters) on a murder spree in *Butterfly Kiss*. Michael Winterbottom's film is for all those who theorized that *Basic Instinct* "empowered" lesbians because they got to victimize the people who usually victimize them. An extra plus with *Butterfly*: women attracted to women actually make love—one of them draped in chains, no less.

As the film begins, Eunice is looking for her lost love Judith. She murders the first woman who tells her she isn't Judith and shortly thereafter douses herself with gasoline from a service-station pump in a general show of craziness.

Seeing this, the station's clerk, Miriam (Saskia Reeves), chucks

her job and becomes Eunice's partner in high crime. Why? Miriam is needy and her life is dull. As the two intentionally clueless wonders hit the road, Miriam thinks she can change Eunice for the better. Eunice warns her that the reverse is more likely to happen.

Since *Butterfly* makes no connection between its leads' sexuality and their murderous rampage, it won't arouse too many queer media activists. *Butterfly*'s various parts are executed proficiently enough (the shooting is especially noteworthy), but it's all atmosphere and affectation, with much of the action sketchily motivated, even on the film's terms. ▼

Bushwhacked plays Oct. 9, 9:55 p.m.; When Night is Falling Oct. 14, 10 p.m.; Nobody Loves Me Oct. 12, 7 p.m.; Butterfly Kiss Oct. 14, 6:45 p.m. All screenings are at the Sequoia II Theatre. The festival's information line is 415/383-5346.

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INTERVIEW

Waters

Continued from cover

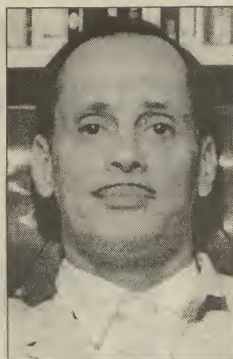
Camp is too toothless a term to be applied to *Pink Flamingos*. It may describe Joan Crawford wielding an axe in *Strait-Jacket*, but it doesn't do justice to Waters' leading lady and muse, Divine, relishing a morsel of dog turd at the climax of *Flamingos*, not to mention the movie's other scenes of murder, incest, cannibalism and chicken fucking.

After *Pink Flamingos*, Waters honed his skills as writer and director with *Female Trouble* ('74), *Desperate Living* ('77) and *Polyester* ('81). With each, he inched closer to the Hollywood mainstream without compromising his anarchic comic vision. Waters' next feature, and sadly his last with Divine, *Hairspray* (1988), was a bonafide hit, a movie that won praise from an esteemed film critic (Pauline Kael) and packed kids into the multiplex.

Waters' last two movies, *Cry Baby* ('90) and *Serial Mom* ('94), weren't as successful, but hopes are high for the film he is currently writing, *Cecil B. Demented*, which he describes as "a comedy about a demented young filmmaker who kidnaps an A-list Hollywood star and forces her to act in his own Super 8 movie."

In a recent phone interview to plug his Solo Mio show, Waters declined to go into detail about *Cecil B. Demented*. (He has a Woody Allenesque aversion to talking about his movies before they're released.) He was eager to chat about a slew of other subjects, though, from his favorite young filmmakers to the current scourge of "family values drag queens."

John Blanco: Within the bad taste theme, what is your lecture



John Waters

going to touch on?

John Waters: It covers everything from crime to movie stars to the making of all my films to the movies I wish I could make to extreme Catholic behavior before the Reformation (laughs). It has a lot of subjects in it. Basically, it's an hour-long sermon or rant about what's interesting me these days.

What are some of the more outrageous things you've been asked lately?

Recently I gave this talk at a college, and at the end I was sitting at a table autographing stuff for the audience. And this girl comes up and whips her bloody tampon right out of her body and puts it on the table for me to autograph. The college professor who hired me was horrified. But I just went ahead and signed it and told her it was my first unsafe autograph (laughs).

Another time, I was waiting for an elevator after a radio interview

and this person comes up to me and says (Waters drops his voice), "I eat shit every day." I didn't know quite what to say. I was pushing the down button on the elevator very quickly.

Do experiences like that turn you off to the lecture circuit?

No, I love these lectures. They're like vaudeville.

Are you going to talk about your new movie?

I never like to talk about my movie while I'm writing it. I think growing up Catholic has made me superstitious about some things and that's one of them. You know, you talk about a movie for three years after you make it. I don't think you should talk about it before you make it.

Are there any young filmmakers out there whom you admire?

I'm a very big fan of Todd Haynes. *Safe* was my favorite movie of the year. I thought it was agony to watch and brilliant. I also like Gregg Araki's movies. And I liked *Postcards From the Edge*.

Postcards From the Edge with Shirley MacLaine?

I mean *Postcards From America*. Oh God, *Postcards From the Edge* (laughs). I forgot about that one. Actually, I didn't hate that either.

I'd like to list some recent media phenomena and see if you have any thoughts on them. First, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley's marriage.

Other people have said this and I completely believe that she was sent there by Scientology to get his money. And he's certainly a prime candidate for any cult if you ask me.

Have you noticed that Michael is as white as May Britt now? He looks like a Swedish woman.

It's true. What do you think about the kinky porn allegations being leveled at Calvin Klein's latest ad campaign?

Oh, it's ridiculous. All it is, I see London, I see France, I see somebody's underpants. Having the FBI look into it is the most ludicrous waste of money. The FBI's looking into underpants! —that's staggering. Personally, I thought it was a great campaign.

How do you feel about the drag queen trend sparked by the success of Priscilla and To Wong Foo?

I'm all for drag queens — God knows. How could I not be? But I feel the cutting edge of drag is over. I would never use drag anymore out of respect for Divine, certainly. When I used drag it was supposed to terrorize. Drag should make families run, not be happy. Family values drag queens I have trouble with.

What do you think Divine would've thought about the trend?

He would've been happy about it only if he'd been included.

Not to sound too New-Agey, but is Divine still a presence in your life?

I still miss him. I think about him a lot and go to his grave. It's great because the graveyard he's in is right near where there's all this new teen trouble in the neighborhood, with Satanists and stuff (laughs). I think it's kind of perfect. ▼

John Waters will appear at the Cowell Theater on October 6 and 7. Call 392-4400 or 978-2345 for info.

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Life After Oscar for James Lescesne's Trevor Simply Trevoriffic

by Chad Jones

Like many actors, James Lescesne has a crowd of characters running around under his skin, but what's special about Lescesne is that one of his characters, a gay adolescent named Trevor, won an Academy Award earlier this year.

Trevor, a short film written by Lescesne based on a character he created for his one-man show *Word of Mouth*, captured the Oscar for Best Short Subject. This sparkling piece of celluloid has been making the rounds at film festivals—including the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, where it was greeted with ovation after ovation at every screening—ever since. The New York-based Lescesne (pronounced less-seen) made his first trip to San Francisco earlier this week when he brought Trevor and the rest of *Word of Mouth* to this year's ultra gay-friendly Solo Mio Theater Festival.

So how does a nice theater actor end up with a lovely gold statuette writing about a gay teen? "*Trevor* was just one of those experiences that tumble out of you," Lescesne says in a phone interview from his Greenwich Village apartment. "The character comes from a part of everyone's adolescence, and that's what makes him and the film so great. People relate to Trevor not because he's gay but because he's dealing with issues of sexuality and how it feels to have a crush on someone. Even straight kids relate to it."

Lescesne says Trevor, a spirited, Diana Ross-obsessed youth who, in the throes of unrequited first love, attempts suicide by ingesting a bottle of aspirin, grew out of his own adolescence in New Jersey. "Anyone growing up gay in the suburbs knows what Trevor is going through," Lescesne explains. "The suburbs offer a pretty narrow world. You just don't see your own choices reflected out there. I had a lovely..." the actor pauses in thought. "No, never mind. I'm lying. I didn't have a lovely time as a child."

While Lescesne continues to work in the theater, he is flirting with Hollywood. Things, as they say, are in development. "I've had a lot of free lunches and sat in a lot of offices," he says. "Talking to people in the movie business is like talking to people in another world. But I'm always fascinated by them—by what they're wearing, how they sound, where they're sitting. When we made the movie, I had ten seconds of absolute revelation. Suddenly I understood why people spend so much time and money making movies. I understood for that brief moment what made it magical."

Die-hard Thespian

Though he had never quite "gotten" the magic of movies before, Lescesne says he has always understood the magic of theater. Inspired by Ruth Draper, whom Lescesne calls the "great grandmother of contemporary monologists," and Lily Tomlin, Lescesne has spent the last 15 years honing his craft as actor and writer. "I believe in theater completely," he says. "But I think people are losing faith in it. That's why solo shows are so important now: I think people getting in front of other people and telling the truth is helping bring theater back to a place of honesty. People are telling their truths, and audiences are more willing to hear one person's truth than they are an entire play. We're hungry for essence and can't get enough of it from each other. When one person stands in front of you



James Lescesne

for 90 minutes you come away with something you didn't have—that person's essence. It's not about scenery or fabulous costumes. It's about who somebody is."

With an Academy Award on his resume and a hit show produced by

the formidable team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Lescesne says he is happy with his career, though he still plans to "conquer the world." What gives him the greatest satisfaction, however, is being a part of something that has a life beyond himself.

"Because the film *Trevor* has won these awards," says Lescesne, "it has become available to teenagers, counselors, educators and people who might benefit from greater awareness about coming out and being gay. And the people who made the movie—producer/director Peggy Raski, producer Randy Stone, Diana Ross, who was so great about letting us use her music, Brett Barsky, who played Trevor so amazingly well, and Brett's parents who totally got the movie and what it was about—these people were extraordinary. The world is being held together by decent people like this." ▼

James Lescesne's *Word of Mouth* continues at the Bayfront Theatre through Oct. 8. Call 392-4400 for info.

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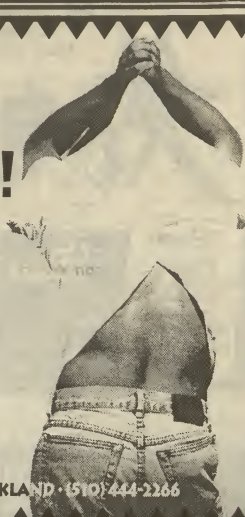
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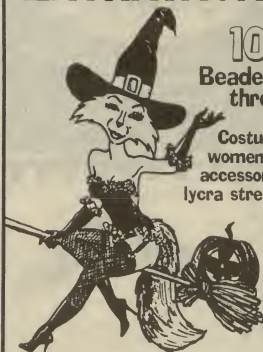
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- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"NICOLE KIDMAN MAKES A
SPECTACULAR BID FOR
SUPERSTARDOM IN THIS SPLENDID
ADAPTATION. THIS MOVIE IS
TRULY 'TO DIE FOR,' WITH
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- Guy Flatley, COSMOPOLITAN

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ART

Gildardo Enrique, Open Studios Celebrate Spirit of Creation

Art Attack

by Matthew Kennedy

Open Studios is one of those perfect ideas. Over four weekends in October, a whopping 500 San Francisco artists unlock their studios to the public and offer a first-hand look at their work. You'll find no fancy galleries with designer prices or preening elitists looking to make obscure judgments. Instead, Open Studios offers an intimate visit to the spots where art is created. Painting, sculpture, video, photography, drawing, jewelry, prints, wearable art and much more are waiting for the casual observer, the talent scout or the committed patron. Bartering is acceptable and good deals are virtually guaranteed.

One artist happy to be making his debut with Open Studios this year is 35-year-old painter Gildardo Enrique. A handsome, gym-toned man from Guanajuato, Mexico, Enrique paints from memory and emotion. In his delightful "Self-Portrait with Bananas" he appears as a serious two-year-old boy in overalls with closely-cropped hair. The painting was not inspired by a casual boyhood moment - it was suggested by a photo taken for his violent father, who had left the family. "Like a moment for my dearest daddy," is the translation of a message on the back of the painting.

"Everything I paint relates to friends, my mother, family, lovers or me," says Enrique. "I explore nostalgia, beautiful memories and traumas, poverty and hopelessness." Enrique has been given few privileges. His mother wove hats to support nine children. Enrique could not enroll in art school as a poor child, but would draw for hours and gaze without aid of electric light at prints of the Old Masters, Goya, Rembrandt and painters of the Italian



Self-Portrait with Bananas, oil on canvas, by Gildardo Enrique (right)

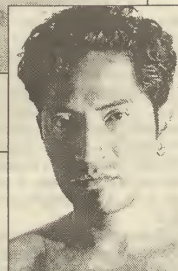


Photo: Kirk Stiller

Renaissance. Some of his subjects, such as simple but eloquent citrus fruit or a lone woman in Dolores Park, show a debt to Wayne Thiebaud and Edward Hopper. He uses strong colors and indulges in long shadows and images of alienation.

Enrique arrived illegally in California in 1978 and has since learned English and become a resident. He settled first in Salinas, then Santa Cruz and finally San Francisco. For a while he worked in a machine shop, supporting a sister and niece. Then he came out, dated a "jerk" and went

"crazy." His self-portraits reveal much of this pain. There is nothing in "Me in a Dream" to suggest it's about alien abduction, but Enrique's expression is stern and humorless. "Crown" has green and blue-tinted crowns tracking across a canvas of bright red-orange. "Parade" is a none-too-

Continued on next page

Baleful, But Bondacious



In the credits for *Fanci's Persuasion*, you'll see that the part of Irene Wiesenthal is played by Justin Bond (above left) as Kiki Derane, as in the insane Miss Kiki Derane who graced Eichelberger's stage many times last year. It's Bond's character-within-a-character variation on the saggy-breasted, liquored-up lounge singer that gives this locally-made film its only good moments. In the movie, Kiki/Irene is the mother of Fanci (Jessica Patton), a young lesbian who is nervously preparing for her wedding to girlfriend Loretta (Boa). On the eve of their nuptials, a "spell" settles upon San Francisco, prompting some misadventures, mostly of the sexual kind, among Fanci, Loretta and other members of the wedding party. But it isn't hard to ignore the movie's straining-to-be-fanciful story line, or its simple-minded ideas about family and sexuality, and just concentrate on the frequently unhinged Kiki/Irene. Her funniest scene comes late in the movie when - in a gold lame coat and a teased fall - she prowls a San Francisco street, sniffing at doorways in an attempt to hunt down her philandering husband. Moments like these make you wish this movie was *Kiki's Persuasion* instead. ▼

—John Blanco

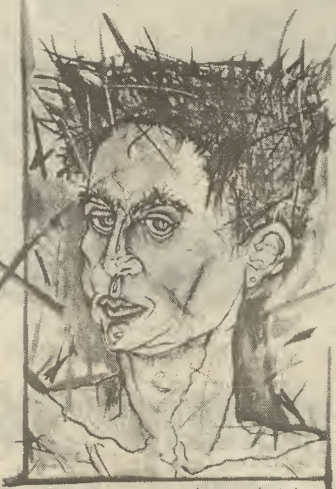
Fanci's Persuasion plays the Red Vic Movie House October 5 and 6

Open Studios Turns 20

Consider that Gildardo Enrique is but one of 500 artists, and one of more than two dozen gay and lesbian identified artists, participating in Open Studios. The riches awaiting the intrepid art explorer are virtually limitless. As with any good idea, Open Studios has taken on a life of its own. Though celebrating its 20th anniversary, Open Studios is still an imposing exercise in administration. Attendance typically exceeds 35,000 per year. An Open Studios Directory, map, various receptions and pared down exhibits at Embarcadero Center and SOMAR Gallery add to the proceedings.

It's not as complicated or exhausting as it may seem. Because of the number of participating artists, studios are grouped according to neighborhood: artists in the Sunset, Richmond, Western Addition, Haight, Pacific Heights, Marina, Russian Hill and North Beach will open their studios October 7 and 8; studios in the Castro, Noe Valley, Mission, Bernal Heights and Mount Davidson will be open October 14 and 15; artists of Civic Center, South of Market, Potrero Hill and Bayview will open studios October 21 and 22; and studios in Hunters Point Naval Shipyard at the end of Evans/Innes Street, east of Third Street, will be open October 28 and 29. Studio hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Can't wade through all the choices? All this art makes your feet hurt? Open Studios also has a store at the Embarcadero with representative work of 50 artists in one location. Admission is free. Maps of the studios are available at the South of Market (SOMAR) Gallery, 934 Brannan Street, the Open Studios Store at Embarcadero Center and elsewhere. The Artists Directory includes photographs of each artist's work, addresses, telephone numbers and a brief statement from the artist. Directories are \$10 and the maps are \$1. If more answers are needed, call ArtSpan at (415) 861-9838. ▼ —Matthew Kennedy



So What, by Max L. White, one of 500 artists participating in ArtSpan's Open Studios.

Enrique

Continued from page 36

subtle statement on corporate nihilism, as identically clad briefcase-toting businessmen walk over a bright yellow surface. To heighten the sense of impersonality, their heads float off the boundaries of the canvas.

Enrique considers tortured artist Frida Kahlo a major influence. "I saw her paintings at a museum in Mexico City in 1976," he recalls. "I was overwhelmed by the pain and emotion." He painted a striking ashen-colored portrait of Frida using nothing but his fingers. In a pique of empathy he created another piece with himself as a Kahlo lookalike. "Mi mama y yo" is a tribute to Enrique's mother: She is partially hiding behind roses while a young Gildardo stands in the background. "She always felt ugly and worked hard," Enrique says. "She was a beautiful singer, but insecure."

Some of the artist's work has direct references to being gay. "Raul" is a portrait of Enrique's first serious boyfriend. "Mark" is a small painting of a young gay man looking pensive in the right foreground while surrounded by tall buildings. The architecture of the painting confines him and mirrors his psychological state. "Two of Me" includes two childhood self-portraits, one in light blue/gray, the other in light green, on one canvas. "It's about loneliness, self-hatred, being gay and unsure. I was shrinking inside."

Enrique's work dwells on serious themes, but is never morbid or sensational. His subjects have been pummeled, they exist in a troubled condition, but are not defeated. Bright neon colors infuse their landscapes. And Enrique is hardly self-pitying. From his home in the Castro, he openly explores the far corners of his sexuality. "Obsession" is a multi-hued self-portrait of Enrique's dick, abdomen and thighs. "Ever since being sexual, I

have wanted to show it off," he says with a smile. More direct exhibitionism was available when he appeared in a safe sex video last week at the Castro Theater. ▼

Gildardo Enrique's studio is at 518 Sanchez St. and will be open October 14 and 15.

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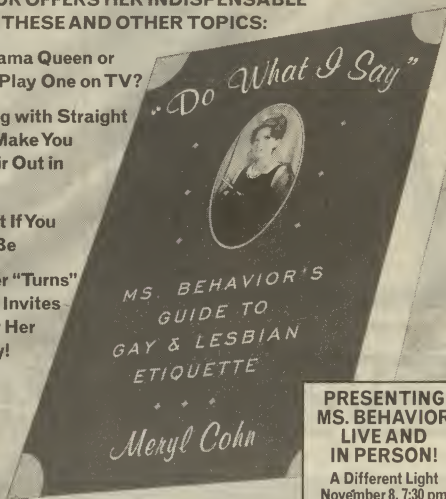
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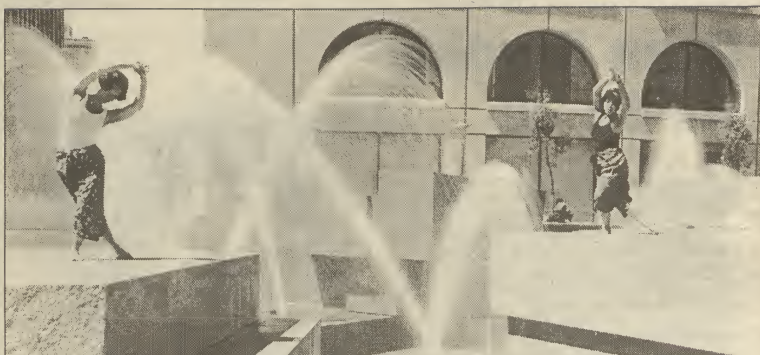
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Pearl Ubungen Dancers perform *Refugee*

Photo: Ken Miller

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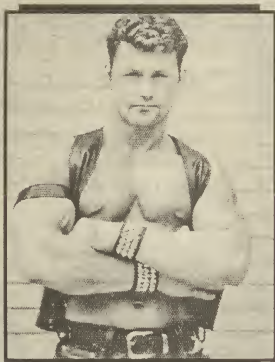
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High Risk Group, Pearl Ubungen Dancers Urban Renewal

by Wendell Ricketts

Two dance events over the last weekend breathed new life into the notion of community-based dance and reminded us what the original goals of the form were intended to be. Rick Darnell and the High Risk Group returned after a long absence with a 1994 work, *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie*; and Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians tore up United Nations Plaza with a site-based, no-punches-pulled political piece that was impressive in both scale and execution.

Having Rick Darnell back in the Bay Area - both as a resident and in residence at the Jon Sims Center - is something of a miracle for San Francisco performing arts. Two years ago, Darnell seemed to have pretty much used himself up and, when he blew town, in ill health and fresh from a hard fall off the wagon, a lot of folks thought they'd never see him again. And that is where the little miracle comes in.

The High Risk Group began giving "garage" performances - SF's answer to New York's "downtown" dance scene - in the late 1980s. Darnell describes the High Risk Group's work as "cultural artistic activism"; the "high risk" in the name refers as much to the health of its members as it does to the edginess of the company's performances. From the beginning, High Risk was more or less a pick-up company, and its members lived more or less pick-up lives out of a warehouse space in the Mission (they were eventually evicted).

Touch and go circumstances, in other words, haven't been unusual for Darnell and his compatriots, but many of them have nevertheless maintained respectable artistic careers. (High Risk's alums, for example, include the late Tracy Rhoades, who danced with Della Davidson, and Scott Wells, who formed his own company several years ago.) After his escape from San Francisco, in fact, Darnell himself landed feet first up in a teaching position at Duke University.

Pearl Ubungen's company, meanwhile, also bases its work in an exploration of "serious contemporary social issues," and, if Ubungen isn't a garage dancer, she and her troupe nevertheless take their work to the streets - literally. Her *Performances in the Gutter*, for example, brought audiences to a Tenderloin alley, and *No Justice, No Peace!* was an outdoor response to the Rodney-King-beating verdict. *Refugee's* location -

and, perhaps more importantly, its milieu - was the UN Plaza fountain and surrounding public square.

What *Sleeping Dogs* and *Refugee* also share, ironically, is that the movement itself is often the least powerful aspect of the work. Ubungen's dancers, more than not, were preoccupied with managing *Refugee's* tricky props and punishing physical environment, and *Sleeping Dogs* trades almost exclusively in the run-jump-catch-slide-push vocabulary of contact improvisation. (An exception is a solo for Ryan Gailbreath that takes place almost entirely on the floor. It's one of the few moments when the movement in *Sleeping Dogs* extends beyond the limited metaphors of contact improv - conflict, rejection, mutual support - and Gailbreath's gamin, inward quality makes his performances both vulnerable and intensely private.)

But there is danger in both works that can't help but pull viewers to the edge of their seats. In the case of the High Risk Group, bodies are constantly hurling themselves headlong across the room, but Darnell's presence adds an even deeper, more affecting dimension. As a dancer, Darnell has always been thin, pale, and rather frail-looking. As a result, when he puts himself on a stage, he can only come across as proud-hearted and defiant.

Beyond that, Darnell literally exhausts himself in *Sleeping Dogs*. He's panting

uncontrollably two-thirds of the way through, it's hard for him to stand up straight, and the look on his face mixes determination with just a little bit of fear. Maybe he's going to get through this and maybe he isn't. "Dangerous" dance like Darnell's isn't compelling for the same reason people seem so fond of going to car races - the chance that you might see a spectacular crash. Rather, Darnell's work demonstrates the triumph of a strong mind and an indomitable spirit over a body that has problems of its own.

In *Refugee*, Ubungen takes her hazards a little more literally. In a section that details the flight of Mexican emigrants across the Tijuana River, her performers drag themselves over the immense marble blocks of the UN Plaza fountain on thick ropes, jets of water shooting them in the face and making the marble almost impossibly slippery. Later, a group of dancers chase down "illegals" with a rolling replica of the 10-foot,

Continued on page 41



Gene (from left to right): Martin Rossiter, Steve Mason, Matt James, and Kevin Miles

Martin Rossiter of British Pop Sensation Gene Getting Away With It

by Adrian Roberts

Martin Rossiter, lead singer of the British pop band Gene, likes to tell the tale of an American fan who kept comparing the sound of his band with the Smiths—that is until the fifth time he listened to Gene's debut record, *Olympian*, and could no longer understand the comparison.

As for me, it took about twice as many listenings to discern the difference between the two, but, admittedly, it was Gene's similarity to that seminal, mid-'80's Mancunian quartet that initially attracted me to the band. "Yes, the one question that we do get asked more than any other is, 'Are you fed up with the Smiths comparisons?'" Rossiter admitted in a recent phone interview from London. "I think we could be compared to the Smiths as much as we could be compared to the Faces or the Pet Shop Boys. All three are influences, and I won't bore you with the list of 700 others."

Though Gene claims to have many influences, the Smiths is the most obvious one, mostly because of the similarity between Rossiter's voice and Morrissey's, and because both artists tend to write woeof songs with melancholy lyrics. In fact, in Britain, where Morrissey is affectionately known as "the Moz," the music press has begun calling Rossiter "the Roz."

However, unlike Morrissey, Rossiter has never been one to play guessing games with the press. Although he says his lyrics, awash as they are in subtle homosexual imagery, speak for themselves, Rossiter has been candid about his bisexuality. "I've never been deliberately ambiguous," he said. "I actually want to be very clear. I don't want to create a mystery persona to try and sell more records. I don't want people to be discussing me as, 'Well is he or isn't he?'"

Still, some people just don't get it. In fact, Rossiter, 25, has been somewhat agog over the curious responses he's gotten to *Olympian*'s queer coming-out song "Left-Handed." "I've had people come to me and say in all seriousness, 'It's great that you've written a song about being left-handed.' You feel like slapping them!"

While it's usually pretty clear what most of Rossiter's lyrics are about, others are more oblique, open to interpretation. Some songs allude to the death of a loved one, suggesting allegories to AIDS. "Yes, I have known people who have died," Rossiter shared. "Death is the one thing that truly frightens me. This may sound horribly arrogant, but I can't believe the world can exist without me. I don't want to miss anything. And [my] songs reflect that fear. I suppose there are allegories to AIDS, but the form of death is almost

irrelevant. I don't want to constrict the songs. I want them to translate to as broad a base as possible."

With songs that appeal to outsiders and malcontents, it's not

surprising to discover that Rossiter grew up in Watford, a boring, conservative suburb of London. "There is this air of aggression

Continued on page 41

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FILM

To Die For

Continued from cover

Joaquin Phoenix, one a hilarious spectacle, the other a superb study in naturalness, the film would make little impression.

To Die For follows Suzanne Stone (Nicole Kidman), a comely but slow-witted blonde who harbors impossible dreams of becoming a big-time television journalist. A product of the TV generation, she wholeheartedly believes that "anybody who is anybody is on TV." A couple of years out of high school, however, and all she's got going for her is a two-bit job doing the weather on a local television station. To make matters worse, she's tethered to hopelessly dull Larry (Matt Dillon), whose sole ambition in life is to inherit his father's restaurant and raise a family. Her ambivalence over their relationship turns to hatred when Larry levels with Suzanne about her dwindling prospects for job offers from Barbara Walters and Diane Sawyer. He begs her to give up weather reporting and go to work in the family restaurant. Reality checks, we discover, are not Suzanne's forte.

When she meets bewildered highschooler Jimmy (Joaquin Phoenix), one of three interview subjects Suzanne uses in a documentary film she cobbles together about teenagers and sex, unexpected erotic sparks begin to fly and the embittered wife discovers the per-



Nicole Kidman and Joaquin Phoenix in *To Die For*

fect dupe with whom to do away with execrable hubby. And he does.

To Die For is based loosely on the events in Joyce Maynard's book about the true-life story of Pamela Smart, the 23-year-old New Hampshire schoolteacher who was convicted in 1991 of conspiring with four high school students to kill her husband. In *To Die For*, screenwriter Henry has shortened the events in the book and employed a narrative device in which characters - parents, friends, relatives, lovers - relay the story of Pamela's/Suzanne's crime on a tacky TV talk show that sends up our cultural obsession with psychobabblers Oprah, Ricki and Geraldo.

As narrative devices go, this one is clever, for it allows director and writer to drive home their points about media dependency and tell a story at the same time. But Van Sant never gets around the built-in limitations of his scheme, and the result is characters who are more mannequin than human, which explains the severely limited range of human emotion in the film and, in turn, the simple-mindedness of its satire.

Noteworthy among *To Die For*'s stiffest creations, ironically, is its lead character, Suzanne Stone. Nicole Kidman pulls out all the stops in an attempt to breathe life into a beached whale, but the character is so thinly conceived by writer and director that our feelings for her are the same from beginning to end: we laugh whenever Suzanne is onscreen because she blurts inanities, mugs, winces and looks ever-so cute. But in being so lovable, quirky and perky, we find ourselves more entertained by her than compelled. Compare this brittle pseudovixen to the complex,

multi-hued dragon lady Linda Fiorentino flung across the screen in last year's *The Last Seduction*, or Faye Dunaway's richly-variegated performance in *Network*, also a media satire, and the difference between fully developed characters and inert ones will be as plain as day.

While there are few signs of intelligent life in most of this film's cast, three other characters in *To Die For* reveal so much emotion that we suddenly think we're watching a different film. Heavy-handed satire shifts without warning to elegiac white-trash saga when Jimmy and his two cohorts, Lydia (Allison Folland) and Russell (Casey Affleck), Suzanne's ostensible interview subjects, are introduced. This teenage trio, a glittering spectacle of human waste, glides through the film like the ghosts of Van Sant films past, only here the usual suspects are greasier and more wasted than ever. But the characterizations are so spot-on, and the sense of despair around them so great, that the discordant note struck by the intersection of these characters with the film's plastic ones is impossible to ignore. And as Van Sant's camera becomes increasingly obsessed with his miscreants' faces and their pathetic lives we lose interest in Suzanne and her hard-boiled high jinks.

To Die For wants to be important, controversial, relevant, but no one in control seemed to know how to shape the film. Is it a wicked comedy about a psychotic bimbo, or a tragedy about America's burgeoning underclass? With no clear answer, it's easy to tune out. ▼

To Die For opens October 6 in general release.

Bergermania

San Francisco comedian Suzy Berger premieres *The Talking Cure*, her first solo comedy show, Sunday, Oct. 11 at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. *The Talking Cure* is a comedic look at one Jody Grossman's journey from "meaning well to knowing better" when she befriends her neighbor, a gay man with AIDS. *The Talking Cure* recounts the real life conundrums that AIDS presents to everybody.

Berger is a staple of the San Francisco comedy and theatre scenes. In addition to her regular stints at Josie's, which are so famous the club has named a burger after her, Berger has also performed in a variety of capacities at the Mason Street Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Studio Eremos and the Phoenix Theatre. *The Talking Cure* was originally produced in workshop at 450 Geary as part of the "Working Women" series. Opening-night performance on Oct. 11 is a benefit for Project Open Hand. Show runs through Oct. 29, Wed-Sun. at 8 p.m. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information. ▼



Photo: Mique Li

THEATRE

Gomez-Pena's *Borderama* Boiling Point

by Jerry Metzker

Performance artist Guillermo Gomez-Pena brought *Borderama*, his newest theater piece, to the Solo Mio Festival last week. A recipient of the prestigious MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Gomez-Pena has made it his life's struggle to explore the relationship between the U.S. and its southern neighbors, focusing expressly on the idea that Latinos get the short end of the stick.

Written by Gomez-Pena and performed in collaboration with Roberto Sifuentes, *Borderama* is a mostly beautiful and startling work. When the audience enters the theater, the piece has already begun. The stage is filled with billowing fog, dead chickens dangle from above, and upstage center a skeleton hangs, as if on a cross. The stage is bathed in harsh red light and the air is filled with the loud, pounding sound of contemporary samba/rap music combined with the soothing tones of Armenian flutes.

Sifuentes and Gomez-Pena are already on stage. Gomez-Pena is wrapped up in a straightjacket, his face covered by a sombrero. Sifuentes pushes him around in a wheelchair. It's incredibly startling and moving. This is the kind of atmosphere which tells the audience it's entering a strange new world. Then Sifuentes dons a mask before attacking and interrogating his collaborator.

Spoken in Spanglish (a motley combination of Spanish and

English), *Borderama* is simultaneously self-referential and universal. Most of the audience, which was primarily composed of Latinos the night I saw it, was completely on Gomez-Pena's wavelength. Every image he used is rooted in their culture, and they appeared to sympathize completely with his pain, frustration and confusion at being an ill-treated immigrant. Gomez-Pena's most vicious barbs are aimed at Gov. Pete Wilson's anti-immigrant Proposition 187 and the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Both Gomez-Pena and Sifuentes are spellbinding performers. They fill the stage with such skillfully rendered emotion they'd be worth watching in practically anything.

Like a lot of performance art, *Borderama* pushes its audience about as far as it can. Near the end, after the audience has been assaulted with a barrage of language, light, sound, slides and images, the piece strains the limit of tolerance when Sifuentes beats a dead chicken to pieces. Showing people destroying their own icons and, ultimately, themselves expresses the extent to which Latino frustration has risen. It is not a pretty sight, but it is incredibly emotional.

Gomez-Pena calls himself an iconoclast, but he is equally an iconographer. Rather than rejecting traditional uses of images, he recreates them in order to relate his specific experience. Such activity makes his pieces, if not entirely accessible to everyone, thoroughly fascinating. ▼

Dance

Continued from page 38

barbed-wire-topped wall that the United States' "Operation Gatekeeper" has caused to be installed across vast sections of the US/Mexico border.

On the one hand, *Refugee's* public, outdoor setting made for some bothersome logistical problems. The audience — at least on Sunday afternoon's performance — was too large to follow the performers around to the several areas where the action took place. It was difficult to see, and often difficult not to be in the way.

On the other hand, it's almost impossible to imagine *Refugee* being seen anywhere else. With the Farmers' Market — many of whose vendors are refugees — surrounding the performance area, the pale blue UN flag flying overhead, the HIV/AIDS Vigil encampment in the background, and homeless men and women populating the grassy knolls along Market Street, *Refugee* became a series of mirrors: Life imitating art imitating life.

At the end of *Refugee*, then, when the dancers wrap themselves in newspapers, plastic bags, and ratty blankets, and stretch out on

the blocks at the edges of the fountain, the moment is breathtaking. We've observed this scene before, but Ubungen puts italics on it. When it's over, her dancers get up and take bows; Mayor Jordan's refugees, meanwhile, wait patiently for the fuss to end, so they can get back to napping in the only bedrooms they've got.

Work like *Sleeping Dancers* and *Refugee* puts the lie to claims that politically-motivated dance and theater don't work or can't be watched. Granted, there's plenty of art out there that is unworkable and unwatchable, but Ubungen and Darnell are definitely worth the risk. ▼

Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians present excerpts from *Refugee* October 13 at The Lab (864-8855), and during the Dance Makers series at New Performance Gallery, December 7-10.

Rick Darnell and the High Risk Group are now accepting applications for a December 1 visual and performing arts festival commemorating Day Without Art/World AIDS Day at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (415-554-0402).

Gene

Continued from page 39

there that if you don't entirely fit in, you must suffer dutifully," explained Rossiter. "There's this feeling of restriction, of not being able to go out and wear ridiculous gold shoes if you want to. You're always looking over your shoulder, about to be attacked by somebody from behind. I survived with guile. I have a good mouth and fast legs."

It makes sense that Rossiter found his escape through rock music. At the tender age of 8 he

saw the Sex Pistols on *Top of the Pops*, which left an indelible impression on the boy's mind. From that moment on Rossiter knew he was going to be a pop star. "It became completely obvious that it was a world where you were allowed to breathe," the singer reflected. "It was a world where you could be yourself, where you could get away with it. And that was a very, very enticing draw." ▼

Gene plays Bottom of the Hill on Friday, October 6th and Saturday, October 7th. Tickets are \$8. Call 621-4455 for more information.

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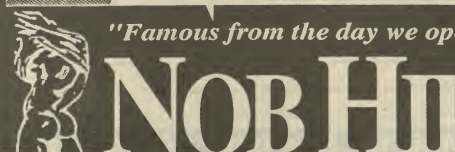
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Sam/Night Shift 8/9
I waited but you didn't come back. Would like to see you again. Please call Forrest. ☎ 6604.

9/3/95 Car Tag On Bay Bridge
You: 81k 3002X. Me: w/ht thunder bird now. I want my turn. ☎ 6605.

Labor Day: Golden Bridge Beach
You: Beautiful, muscular black man w/ yellow square cut trunks. Me: Slim blonde w/ hairy chest, glasses. We passed and looked several times and I kicked myself all the way home for not introducing myself. My ankles are still killing me! You looked great from the rock. Please call. ☎ 6600.

Ben, How Can I Find You
We exchanged smiles and a hello at the Houston Airport on 6/14. Did not know if we would ever meet again. Fate let us meet again on Labor Day at Baker beach. Would like to enjoy your smile again. Lets not tempt fate. Duane. ☎ 6601.

To Michael From Vallejo
We ran into each other at Bar/Dance Bar/Pleasure Dome. Labor Day. You: chain harness/black pants. WM: white tank, black pants, drk hls pl call, Daniel. ☎ 6602.

William
I've seen you at World's Gym, Under One Roof, Badmans. We always say "Hi", but never really talk. Got your name from your x-trainer. Call. ☎ 6603.

First Experience
It was honestly my first time "cruising". Your warm inviting smile allowed me to overcome my shy nature. You sat across from me Thursday, 9/7, 6pm, J. Church. Your long legs were covered in hot black lycra. I was wearing a magenta shirt (with my heart beating uncontrollably underneath), reading the B.A.R. Let's talk. ☎ 6648.

Campus Theater Sat. 9/9/95 5pm
You: shorts, 20's. Me: yellow t-shirt, Levi's, mustache. We exchanged several glances in the lobby, you asked the clerk if the 4:30 show had been cancelled, got a pass and left. Let's meet. ☎ 6649.

Marty From Auburn
We met Sept 2 @ 10:00am in Berkeley. Had a great time and want to do it again. Jack. ☎ 6650.

Sunday 9/17 On Rhode Island
Outside store, you were trying to console young son. Driving blue Ford truck. If you're gay and interested please give me a call. ☎ 6701.

Shaved Head, Tattoos
Multi-image body shirt. Detour Sept 17. You were going to dinner with friends. Me: 5'6", bearded. We spoke briefly outside want to know you. ☎ 6702.

Fed-Ex Flirt
Deer Fed-ex flirt. Long time no see. Call me or leave message. Robert. ☎ 6704.

Kito Hill
Thursday evening 9/14. You: exted house at top of hill with golden retriever. Me: wearing cap, walking with toddler, friends and dogs. We smiled, turned around, stopped, but I had to chase my dog and after wards you were gone. Like to meet? ☎ 6705.

SF Athletic Club, 8/13
You: Cute lean blonde wearing Maine short. Me: Asian guy in gray shorts and shirt. We kept glancing at each other while working out. Want to work out together? ☎ 6706.

To The Samurai In Shades Crossing Post 8/17
You: Being v. nice to an older woman. Your stare cracked my glasses, singed my beard. 30 min later on the 2nd flr of Eddie Bauer, round two. Is the third time to be? All my friends who urged me to write this sure hope so, and so do I. ☎ 6707.

BGNSTPD
Black Nissan truck. Saw you driving east bound on Bay Bridge 9/7/95. Would love to talk with you and possibly meet. Hope you are curious enough to call. ☎ 6708.

Rick From Rhode Island
We met in the T'ion on 9/16. You were in wheelchair. Been thinking of you since. Ed. ☎ 6709.

MUM #24 Sunday, 9/24, 5:30pm
You were reading Paul Monette and we exchanged small talk. You got off at Hayes (and took your beautiful smile with you). How about dinner? Brian. ☎ 6801.

Detour 9/17
You: short, cute, white shorts, speaking Spanish to a friend. Me: dark hair, beard, mustache. You acted interested. We said "Hi". Can we say more? ☎ 6703.

Washing Your VW, Clay Off Divisadero
Sunday, 9/17. I walked by with my dog. Made eye contact and said "Hi", wished I would have stopped to chat. Me: tall, lean, cap, sunglasses & jeans. ☎ 6753.

9/20/95 Blk Nissan Truck on Van Ness.
Cute driver w/ shorts on nothin' else. This red bearded Teddy bear stared out the window of the MUNI bus next to your smooth self. I'd like to climb into the passenger seat and your lap some-time ☎ 6806.

Harlequin Cafe, 9/18, 1:15pm
You: T-shirt, blue jeans, pasta salad, time magazine & cool blue eyes that caught mine. Me: toned, black sweat-shirt & shorts. Wanna meet? ☎ 6805.

HRCF Silent Auction
You were selling wine. I bought the Martini Cab. 78 Artist label. I'd like to share it. ☎ 6804.

Cliff's Hardware 9/19/95 about 6:00pm
You were tall and very attractive in a pair of white shorts and a dark shirt. They could not find a match for your key. We smiled several times, but I was pressed for time. Would love to meet you. ☎ 6802.

Mark M. From San Rafael
We met Tues. 9/19 at the Cafe. Me: tall blk/gm, 26. You: very sweet-n-cute. I would love to do dinner. To shy to give you my #. Let's get together Jesse (Jes). ☎ 6803.

Seeking Relationship M-M

GWM, 29, 5'8", 140#, B/Bl, Bottom
Seeking a steady, close to my age, tall, average build/or better, always a plus). I'd like to move slowly and see what happens? ☎ 6806.

Tall, Trim, Top
Aroused by power exchange? Safely explore submission with smart, sexy, sane, successful, bi WM, 41, HIV-. Prefer: 30's, attractive, spiritual, muscular, NS, ND. ☎ 6807.

I Need A Blonde In My Life
Dominant top guy, 35, 185#, 6'1", muscular, dark hair and eyes, seeks very thin, muscular, blondes, 18-40yrs. for fuck action, good times. ☎ 6808.

Female To Male Transgendered?
If your sexual with queer genetic men read on! I date only FTM, and while I never object to casual sexual encounter(s) fun, it would be much nicer to have more than just one nights stands. Don't you agree? ☎ 6816.

Seriously Seeking Ethnic Top
GWM, 35, 6'2", 185#, very attractive, toned musc. body, good looking, sincere. We'll be pleased with me. ☎ 6609.

Tough Guy
33, alternative type, GWM HIV+, w/ tats and piercings enjoys workouts, surfing, hiking and blading. Affection for micro-breweries and the local band scene. Let's slay the urban sprawl together. ☎ 6610.

Hot In-Shape GWM
33, 5'9", 140#, brn/brn, seeks hot muscular man, any race. I'm fun, safe, HIV-; you too, please. ☎ 6617.

Asians: J/O Is Safe & Hot
Bvds/Boxers, tube, videos, camcording, cumshots, I'm WM, 35, hairy, cleanshaven, "attractive", masculine, easy going, tired of gay scene, no heavy alcohol/drugs, sensual & philosophical. ☎ 6611.

Buffed Body Builder
Huge legs, chest, and arms. 29, 5'11", 208#, very good looking w/ light brown hair. Look half Asian and half white. You must be muscular. Race unimportant. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 6612.

Are You A Musc Black Guy?
I'm GWM, 37, muscular, looking for a sculptured, muscular smooth GWM to date. Please be serious and sincere. ☎ 6613.

Seek HIV+, GWM Top
Especially one who intentionally sero converted. Possible research, but also LTR! Live in SF, be affectionate, healthy. You: probably younger. Me: GWM, 52, 5'11", 210#. ☎ 6614.

Palo Alto GWM Cocksucker
By 35yo, who likes giving free blowjobs to guys under 45 with no recipro. on a very discreet basis. ☎ 6615.

Sissy White Boy, 39
Wants to meet Mark Fuhrman's nightmare. Older, black, thick, straight, horny, virile, buffed, demanding, kinky. Needing steady service. ☎ 6618.

Equal Daddy?
25yo, GWM, hairy, husky, bearded bear cub seeks G.A. daddy bear who is capable of being dominant in bed and equal out. LTR possible ☎ 6619.

Looking For A Special Asian Top?
I'm chinese, 35, 5'7", 145#, hot and healthy, HIV+, smooth skin, nice body, aggressive, seeks GWM, lover over 6'0", who enjoys sharing good times & good sex, serious only please. ☎ 6620.

Masculine/Romantic
Tall European GWM, professional, 37, 6'3", looking to meet tall GWM, 35-45, professional HIV-, drug-free, NS for dating or true romance. ☎ 6621.

Young, Attractive, HIV+, Male Searching
I'm 6'1", 160#, from Irish Spanish descent, dr features, Lt olive skin, career minded but adventurous. My soul mate, tall, professional, considerate and open minded, African American male healthy and ambitious. ☎ 6713.

GWM GD Lks Seeks Other
29yo, 5'9", 165#, sxs other GM for friends for poss. LTR. Looking for ordinary loving type up to 45yo. Me not very experienced but want love from a nice man. ☎ 6651.

My Last Chance
To find a boyfriend! I'm tired of all the "gaymes" and BS. I know there's an old fashioned available mature relationship minded, GWM, between 35-40 out there ready to date a handsome, 6'1", 165, ND, NS, GWM, so call already! ☎ 6710.

Holy Communion
That magic moment when you shoot a mouthful for me to swallow. ☎ 6723.

Caring
I'm GWM, HIV-, 40's who would like to hear from a special someone who is fun loving and looking for someone who needs the same between 30-45. Life is better together. Lets talk. ☎ 6711.

Looking For Frederick
You responded to my leave #6316 please call me again and leave number once more. I must talk to you. Please respond. ☎ 6712.

Live, Laugh, Love Thank You Mr. Sondheim.
If that peaked your interest and you're a bit of a hopeless romantic like I well then why not give me a call. Norman Desmond I'm not but I have been down Sunset Blvd a few times and well...I'm still here. ☎ 6714.

Woof! This Dane Is No Bow-Wow
But I could be a hairy man's best friend, gldng, 37, bond, blue, 145, 5'10", smooth, musc, seeks extremely furry man to scratch me behind the ears while I wag your tail & then some. ☎ 6715.

Cute Young Bottom Seeks Older Top
Bubble butt, satin smooth skin, 26, 6', 157#, HIV-, highly cultured intelligent multitalented & gifts, seeks older mature masculine man 52-67 who appreciates beauty, brains, values and principles. ☎ 6716.

Santa Rosa Bi WM 50+ HIV-
Sks ltr w/ B/gay WM or unique cpl Smk, drk, ok toys photos videos ok discretion assured my place anytime. ☎ 6717.

Very Handsome Italian Irish
Athletic, self employed, 32, 5'10", 165#, seeking buddy, GWM, 28-38. Be good looking, comfortable in jeans or suit. (stable) Tones body & sense of humor a must. ☎ 6718.

Hawaii, Europe, Australia
Free trips for myself and companion. Handsome GWM, 35, 5'11", 150#, bly/bl seeks very good looking slim GWM/GAM 18-35 intelligent honest and fun. This is for real. Take a chance. ☎ 6719.

Marriage Minded?
WM, 51, (looks 30's), 5'11", 160#, clean shaven, hairy chest, ND, NS, masc: top, HIV-, seeks AM, 25-35, under 5'8", thin, educated, for quality monogamous relationship. I'm stable, up-front, like travel, movies, scuba, 60's-80's music, theater. ☎ 6725.

Dad Seeks Top
Dad seeks top any race for hot time. I'm 5'10", thinning hair, 165# seeks an Asian, HIV-, and SF resident. If your fantasy is to fuck dad, call me. ☎ 6720.

You Too Were My "Only" Don
I'm pseudo-this, quasi that but mostly a rad, hop-up roller blader. Studly WM, 34, wants to meet you, but alas, I do not call, only get calls. How can we meet? You a study and think you can kick my "s". ☎ 6721.

Dream Lover Cum Rescue Me
Waiting for a pot of gold at the end of my rainbow. I'm GWM attractive, 27, 5'9", 165#, really nice and very fit, who would love to be loved. ISO GWM, BLM, GWM 25-35, fit, strong, passionate and honest. No fat or feds. ☎ 6722.

Lovable, Hot, Well-Hung Bottom
GWM, 45, 135# clean-cut, over-sexed bottom looking for buttch top to fill the void in my life and fill my tight ass with your hard cock. ☎ 6724.

Wanted: Young Guy With A Near Death Experience
Spiritual, handsome, adventurous, energetic, mature man in a wheelchair, finishing law school, seeks big hearted guy full of love, preferable Christian, who has had a life-transforming, rejuvenating, near death experience. If you fear nothing and have encountered the light, lets meet and build up a committed, monogamous relationship. ☎ 6725.

San Francisco Gay American-Chinese Male
5'11", 160#, bright, intelligent, sentient, thoughtful, articulate, progressive, humorous, seasoned, no facial hair, substance free, HIV-, relationship oriented; seeking similar single gay caucasian male. ☎ 6726.

Literate LTR Wanted With SF Top
You: GWA/H/M wanted generous affection, romance, weekend sex with dining and drinking, occasional smoke. HIV+, healthy, ok. Ready for a sharing relationship. Me: GWM, 52, 5'11", 212#. Seize the moment. ☎ 6727.

Be A Pal
32 year old college student, lonely for physical contact and easy conversation, seeks funny, cynical, bright, imaginative, boyfriend with seductive tendencies. Must like beer, movies and me. I'm 5'10", circa 240, brown, blue, goatee. My free time is yours if. ☎ 6728.

Asian Little Prind
You are cute with a smart mind and good heart. I'm a European, GWM, romantic, honest in my 40's, thin(5'8", 135#) seeking LTR with younger Asian/Eurasian man, NS into healthy food, movies, may be politics. I live on the mid peninsula. Call. ☎ 6752.

Are You Asian And Smooth?
I'm a musc, GWM, 38, loving & sincere. If you are smooth, Musc, toned, not afraid of commitment. Lets try no games. ☎ 6820.

Solitaire
Karen carpenter couldn't have sung it better. This is how I feel. HIV+ healthy, 5'11", long mustache, spiritual, where is my soul mate? New to area. Want to enjoy S.F. with someone. I am romantic. You too? Just getting over relationship. ☎ 6755.

Rim Buddy Wanted
Gym, 37yo, HIV-, cute, very healthy, gym toned body seeking rimming adventures with smooth, lean, cute, HIV-, younger man with a hot white round ass. ☎ 6756.

Midwest Transplant
GWM, 39, 6'1", 210#, bly/bl, seeks male who know how to make love without being a top or bottom. Age, race unimportant but must be drug/disease free. Please be a real man with your head on straight. All calls answered. ☎ 6757.

Goodlooking White Sugar Daddy
Wanted for pretty black Queen. Hi, I'm looking for a good looking white Sugar Daddy who is generous, and erotic and into my sincere, sweet, pretty, brown sugar. You must be cute, I am pretty, you must be generous. I am flexible, you must be serious, so am I. ☎ 6837.

Husky, Blk Bottom Looking For Top
Me: 39, 6', 270, HIV-, affectionate, caring, spiritual, non-attitude. You, masculine top, 30-50, any race, good scenes of humor, affectionate, monogamous, looking for serious relationship. ☎ 6822.

Hopeful Romantic
GWM, 42, 185#, drk hair/eyes, masculine, considered handsome, hairy, good build, in joys outdoors: sunsets on the beach, candle light dinners, travel, old BW movies, holding hands and passionate kissing. I'm HIV+, but extremely healthy and definitely a top. I tend to like guys younger, honest, loving and commitment oriented. ☎ 6819.

GWM Seeks Friends?
Seeking GWM or BWM for friendship etc. Me: 50, 6'2", 180#, HIV-, 6' uncult, calgrd, retired, ND smoke OK. Tired of bar scene. You be French & Greek active & passive, cut 4+, hairy body, big pluses. ☎ 6818.

If Your 27 & Under
Hispanic/Asian call. Me: 18yo, gay, half Spanish/English, 155#, 6'2", very intelligent, seeking Asian/Hispanic male for romantic fun times & relationship. 27 & under please. Home boy, definite plus, no fats/fems. Will reply only to serious person. Getting lonely. ☎ 6817.

Asian Thai Top
Asian 26yo, short person, HIV-, good looking, handsome and great body. Looking for GWM, 5'6", HIV-, like Asian only. Please be 18-36, with big 8" or 9": thanks. You'll not be sorry if you call. P.S. S.F. only. ☎ 6816.

Handsome Boy
5'10", 155#, 33yo, br/br, moustache, HIV+, very healthy, bottom. I enjoy life and becoming successful. Interested in a man who is attractive, successful, over 40, hairy, moustache, top. We are both romantic, passionate and desire LTR. ☎ 6814.

Seeking David Bowie Fan
This cute 25yo, GWM, needs a date to the Bowie/Nirvana concert at Shoreline on Saturday 10/21. Here is the deal: You pay for dinner and provide transportation, I provide reserved seat tickets. Cute vegetarian nonsmoker preferred but not required. ☎ 6813.

Bookworm
Confession, I am 151lbs overweight, and I would rather read than go to the gym. However, this GWM, 43, 6', 193 is affectionate, warm hearted, hairy, expressive and humorous. ☎ 6812.

Share Great Life!
Very handsome GWM, 35, 5'11", 150# seeks very good looking GWM/GAM 18-35 to enjoy life of leisure, travel and fun. Intelligence and honest a plus. ☎ 6811.

Beyond The Ratrace
Hithy, HIV-, NS/ND, 46, retired, wants to explore life's basics - our spirits, bodies, commitments to loved ones, community, nature's creation with like minded guy. We're beyond the materialistic treadmill, affirm our natural unvarnished being. Capable of mutual intimacy and commitment. ☎ 6810.

Buffed GWM 4 Quality GWM
Masculine muscled attractive & intelligent intensely spirited African-American excc: seeks handsome versatile mature confident witty gym-toned Euro-American hunk... for sex laughs friendship... maybe more!! ☎ 6809.

GAM Seeks Other GAM
28, clean shaven, in shape AM seeks similar AM for fun, loving, good time, and possibly relationship. ☎ 6808.

BarTalk

Personals are FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Use only the space provided. Do not attach additional paper or text. Deadline for ads is Wednesday, 5 pm, for the following week's issue. New ads will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. We reserve the right to edit ads.

Select One: ☐ Parting Glances ☐ Seeking Relationship M-M ☐ Seeking Adventure M-M
☐ Seeking Relationship W-W ☐ Seeking Adventure W-W ☐ Fetishes ☐ Couples ☐ Other

Name _____ Day Phone No. _____ Eve. Phone No. _____
 Address _____ Apt No. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Write your headline here: _____ (stop here)
 Write the rest of the ad here: _____

 _____ (stop here)

Mail to: BarTalk, 395 Ninth St., SF CA 94103

PERSONALS

Let's Fall In Love Why Not?
Really want LTR with SF GWM top into romantic weekend evenings full of affection, humor, fun, we are sane, healthy, sterile, monogamous, sharing. Moi: generous bottom GWM, 52, 5'11", 215lbs. **6807.**

Looking For That "Special Man"
To light up my life for "friendship" and if the "chemistry" is right a LTR. Me: 43yo, 5'10", 175#, hzl eyes, attractive, sincere, blk hair, humorous, thoughtful, drug free. You: 30-42, attractive, muscular, sensitive, humorous, smart, dark hair, a (Latin male) hairy, athletic, like music, dancing, outdoors. **6821.**

Seeking Adventure M-M

Locker Room Jack Bondage
Dominant weight lifter/coach seeks tough aggressive versatile bottoms who want to learn the ropes and be worked over by the coach. TT/CBT/JO/Pec Pounding. Be in chapel Leather, athletic equipment, uniforms, imagination, verbal are all +. **6767.**

Lean HIV+ Bottoms: Get Used!
GWM, 36, 140#, 5'9", br/bl, HIV+, hot lean defined non-beat top seeks lean non hairy HIV+ bottom 20-40 who enjoys being humiliated and fuck hard [natural] You: docile, clean, nonsmoker. You crave being violated, raped, used. I'm hung, thick, fast, careful, sadistic, non-verbose, arrogant in bed, personable elsewhere. **6758.**

Supportive Seeks Young
Semiretired, professional, trim, GWM, HIV- seeks much, much younger companion for on going cuddle-sessions. Must be very affectionate. Men of color +. **6759.**

Man To Man
GWM, 40, 6'1", 175#, br/bl, seeking hard body, muscular white man into JO & man to man action with a rub. **6760.**

Opposites Attract
Bottom guys with small dicks and tight butts drive me nuts. I'm a hot masculine, muscular top man with 8 1/2 of thick, hard, throbbing Italian dick. **6761.**

Black Tops
This trim, attractive, WM, 35, has all the right moves to satisfy that big bulge in your pants. **6762.**

Suck Buddy Wanted
Average tall guy 40's w/ average cut hard cock looking for GWM 38-50 with average + cut cock into, smokes, aromas for mutual worship. **6763.**

Treat Yourself
Let me start by turning my tongue along the back and sides of your neck then work my way over the rest of your body, my fingers and lips caressing your skin until it tingles. Finally I take you to a great orgasm. Let me make love to your body. Disease/Drug free. **6764.**

Heavy Duty SM
Drop your shorts and submit to a rigorous working over including butt whipping and tit torture by a bearded top, 50's, 6', 170#. Get up off your knees sore and satisfied. **6765.**

Blond Flattop, Handbar Stash
And very masculine stud seeks police/freeman, guard types into 69, fuck, suck, rim and kissing. I'm young 40 with no diseases and complete discretion into unique hot fantasy sex. **6823.**

Master Seeks Castro Street Fan Slaveboy
Dominant GW Master, 6'3", 200#, 40's HIV-, vesting 5 day IS W or A slaveboy, for wild fantasy weekend, and lots of hard top action. Must follow orders, be willing to please. Limits respected. **6768.**

Deep Throat Demonstration
Still looking for that with the 9x7 or larger horse cock. Masc, mature, tanned GWM needs men w/ over sized sex organs. Age & race are not important. So if you want and need satisfaction to the balls, I'd love to give you a demonstration of my deep throat technique. **6736.**

Handsome Bodybuilder Wants Pussy Cat
He likes to play with you till you turn into a pussy cat in heat, eat your clean bubble butt, on you down, ride you till you scream, and short in ecstasy. If you like he'd tie you up and ravage your ass. Body builder is 33 dark Asian/Latin features, sculptured smooth muscles! You: attractive, trim, in heat. **6822.**

East Bay Aussie
36, 190#, straw/blonde wants to play at nights with local guys. HIV-, NS, ND, jock straps & Jo's a plus. Please be genuine & around same age. **6637.**

No Hassle Oral Worship
By nice guy who wants your hot load in my face. I'm white, 39, good body, hot mouth and throat. Your place, HIV-, only. Prefer masculine blacks, Asians and very funny men. **6627.**

Unusual RR
PWA/KS seeks other outcast by disease serostatus for friendship adventure sex or? Sonoma county name & number for call back serious only. **6626.**

Daddy Top Wants Son
Me: attrac GWM, 45, 6'5", 280#, foot-ball players build. You: attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth to moderate body hair and great buns Ass massage-spanking. Dad wants to spank his bad son. Your butt will feel great. You need it bad. **6825.**

Hellhole Domination
By devilish dick fuckmaster, 6'1", 185#, 35yrs, muscular. Bare butt bottoms must be thin, muscular, 18-40yo, and love to get drilled. Blondes especially wanted. **6828.**

Bottoms Up
Me: Tall, gym toned lean, early 30's, mustache/goatee, very good looking top, hot. You: also toned, lean and very handsome. Seeking stud service. Not looking for the average. You too? **6636.**

Hung Big
Hot, 6', 35, ISO good looking All-American collegiate type w/ gym toned body hung big seeks good looking guys hung as big (or bigger) **6635.**

ISO Cherry Picker
31yrs, WM, ISO men 18-40yrs to show me about man to man erotic fun is like Poss. relationship. **6730.**

New To Sonoma Co
Vers GWM 88 w/ tattoos looking for playmate 30-50 for nude beaches, dancing, BB shows and exploring many kinds of male sexuality. **6731.**

Black S/M Top Wanted By White Bottom Boy!
I'm 32yo 6'3", 155#, muscular, submissive and eager to please. If u r 25-38yo, tall, built, hot hung & horny, you can hurt me and fuck me and make me suck you over and over. I'll eat your cum, BD, WS, TT ok. Dominate me. **6737.**

Photo: Steve Underhill



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1-900-844-2227

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Attention Guys 18-25

Top guy, 35, 185#, 6'1", muscular, dark hair, and eyes, muscular, mustache, HIV-, wants to fuck with thin muscular, athletic guys. Fun times ahead! Inexperienced, curious, bisexual encouraged to replay. **6829.**

21yo Latino ISO Some Fun
21yo, GLM, College student, cute, 5'10", 215#, rugby player, looking for 18-41yo GWM/GLM, top, for hot sexy fun times, & or a possible LTR. **6634.**

Fat Free
Butch top male, 6'1", Greek fuck active, 35yrs, 185#, muscular, loves thin musc guys, 18-35yrs, w/ very low body fat for sexual adventure. Veiny arms, washboard abdominal are big turn on. **6630.**

South Bay Fuck
Top fuck guy, 6'1", 185#, dark hair and eyes, 35, seeks lean and mean thin muscle guys 18-38 for butt fucking and good times. All hole fantasies will be fulfilled. **6631.**

Great Kisser!
Gdkg, GWM, 29, 5'9", 170#, gym toned seeks Gdkg, GWM, 25-40 for hot, long french kissing sessions Mon/Tue day, I'm hot & very oral with great lips & a long tongue. Let's kiss. **6632.**

Dallas, Texas, Aggressive, Masculine, GWM Daddy
Will be here 10/28-11/2 looking for a slim, hot, totally submissive, w/ talented please boy/toy, under 33, clean shaven, oral expert, for hard, rough, top-action. Daddy: tall, bearded, protective, understanding, good looking. Call for interview. Relocation possible. Experience optional. **6633.**

Wanted: Big Hairy Pecs
Tall lean hairy daddy, w/ talented bearded mouth will lick top, suck your big hairy muscular pecs/nips. Lean & defined to massive muscle. Big arms & lips lapped, nut licks, deep throater. Be masculine, stashed, hairy, arms & legs. Jewelry free. **6836.**

Sacto Novice
GAM would like to experience getting fuck with all nationality 30 and over with cock over B, I'm 5'8", 159# smooth body long hair and I love to satisfy my man whatever he wants, have tried some dildo, toys and spanking. **6735.**

Pagan Guy Seeks Same
Fun, spiritual, micro-brew drinking, devotee of dihonary revelry. Seeks other guy(s) to share good times. (ritual), rock+roll, & intimacy. I'm a GWM, HIV-, hairy & like guys 18-30. **6732.**

Contra Costa Stud Sought
By goodlooking couple, top, 5'10", 160#, bottom 5'9", 170, seek muscular stud for fun and fantasy fulfillment. **6733.**

Bottom into Dildos
Seeks top. I am 43, HIV+, 6', 190#, brown/brown, John. **6624.**

Hairy Ass Arab
With green eyes moustache hairy is looking for experienced men only to start him in the art of FF or stretching his ass. **6734.**

Fuck Buddy Wanted
East Bay WM 6', 160#, HIV-, brn/blue 40's bottom/versatile seeking Ebay top guy, any race for discreet physical play(black, hisp, a+) **6738.**

Senior Citizen Orgy
Over 50, mature, perverts only Cocksucker, piss drinkers, but nimmers, nut lickers all needed for hot, raunchy time. **6739.**

Let's Fuck
GWM, 35, 5'6", 130#, bl/grn, some hair on chest. I'm seeking a top man to bend me over on a regular basis, 30-42yrs. Prefer athletic types with moderate body hair. I'm athletic too. **6740.**

Hard/Pumped Bodies Wanted
Imaginative 27yo Spanish professional wants to service and take from well built body builder, Bi & GWM. If you are over 5'10" and hard, let me hear from you. **6741.**

Hot, Horny, Well-Hung Bottom
GWM, 45, 135#, clean-cut loveable bottom needs hot well-hung top for hot oral sex and to drill my tight-ass on a steady basis. I need your dick deep within me! **6742.**

Span My Butt & Slay My Dick
Me: attrac GWM 43yo, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, into light SM/Leather/Safe butt play. You kinky, in shape, & HIV-. **6835.**

Photo: Steve Underhill

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Horse Hung Handsome Thick Black Cocks
Straight acting, handsome, 5'8", 145#, 29" waist smooth, tanned Italian. Desperately needs to worship 1 or 2 hard bodied black studs. I will eagerly eat and receive your fantastic fuck sticks. No body wants you as bad as I do. I'll prove it. I'll prove it. **6829.**

Long Hair, Tight Jeans & Cute Buns
Horny unconventional fuck-boy with muscle legs, smooth sexy body, 32, 5'7", 135#, likes to surrender to slender, insatiable, hung, rock-hard, respectfully roughing-dicks/gangs who repeatedly slam-fuck my hot submissive butt all night long. **6744.**

Visiting SF In November
Maryland GWM, 40, 6'2", 185, masculine, versatile, seeks hung GBM men of color for hot action and possible visit exchange. Thin bodied, skinny types turn me on, but if one of you endowed musclemen want to show me the error of my ways, please respond. No hard drugs. **6827.**

Hot Daddy In The South Bay
A hot daddy 40 to 50 in SBay, Me: brn, blue, 225, 30, No drugs or bars, fenns. Let go uptown for coffee. Lets do it. **6824.**

Smelly Holes Turn Me On
I love to smell a real ripe funky ass hole while I jack off. I'm into toilet sex, man smells and fucking wet holes. I'm HIV-, enjoy spanking guys too. Latinos a +. **6746.**

Boot slave Licks Your Boots and More!
28yo, boot slave craves humiliating existence beneath the feet of a sadistic master in 20's or 30's. Privileges for slave are licking dirt from soles of your boots, being stepped on, spit on, pissed on and lent to your friends. Slave is 28, good looking, 155#, 5'10". **6838.**

That Guy Doesn't Have Any Pants On!
Bad boy saves up cum for days, takes pants off in public, streaks through crussy parks/alleys in tight, shiny brightly colored bikini briefs, sniffing aroma, sporting huge, hard, horny boner! Seeks studs w/ sm. fetish. **6839.**

Sneaker Scenel
Sneaker action, service wanted into sneaks, hightops, cross-trainers, kink, etc. **6840.**

East Bay/Oakland Exhibitionist
Bi WM seeks guys/gals for private JO shows at my home. Other fantasies include waiting 2 or more guys to JO on my face. Very safe and discreet, expect the same. Bring your boyfriend or girl friend. Lesbian couples welcome too. **6841.**

Stop
Relax, 50's sizzling tongue will take WYM with big clean feet guy Meet and I'll make you feel so good. Try it you will love it. **6842.**

Feet
I have enjoyed lifelong excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's bare feet. I'm aroused sensually by kissing, licking, smelling, and caressing bare feet in reciprocal action. JO. 1 Ebay GWM, 5'8", 140#, tan, bearded, HIV-, NA, ND. **6843.**

Are You Thirsty?
Thirsty, perverted, mature, experienced piss pigs wanted to contain the flow from big hose. Endurance, oriented, face sitter, gives yellow, hot gallons. **6844.**

Seeking Freaky Huge Nipples
I'm 37, GWM and would like to date/service a musc. guy w/ huge protruding nipples on a reg basis. **6845.**

Seeking GBM/GAM Soul Mate Into Raunch
Chubby GWM, 51, 5'10", 270#, clean-shaven, smooth body, into scat. Looking for LTR w/ stocky smooth bodies GBM or GAM age 45-75 who is also into scat. No SGM or role playing, just affectionate mutual raunch. I'm versatile, french, bottom, greek, smoker. Average looks a plus. Overweight/chubby/obese is a big plus. **6846.**

Corporal Punishment Pants Down Discipline
GWM, 40's needs your firm hand on the seat of my pants, white jockeys and bare ass (w/ my pants and shorts pulled down past my butt). Authoritative over the knee spanking and/or paddling expected. Now administer it. Thank you sir! **6847.**

Hung Couple
Two goodlooking 35yo Wm's hung big (8+ and 9+) Seeking others for group action. Prefer in shape and hung guys. Tops a plus. **6749.**

Shoot Your Load Wash Off With GS
Straight, WM 50's seeks masculine looking hung cut older male or TS or TV to jack off on my face then wash cum off with GS. Bonus points if you can bring girl or TS to watch and/or join in. **6834.**

Other

Be My Sugar-Daddy
You: Age or race insignificant, willing to send me to school, travel extensively, pay-off my debts, provide transportation and have the time of your life. Me: 22, gr/br, 150# and very horny. Looking for someone to spend my days and long nights with. Can you handle it? **6750.**

Wrestling Sport Of Kings
Guys, 6', 180#, muscular seeks same size guys for wrestling. Clean technique, nobody gets hurt. Fun, jock straps or nude. Mat with mirror. Friendly handsome guy. **6751.**

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the Hottest guy in town is now worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you are HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **SAFE.**

Over 6' Tall, Cute, Generous White Guys
I'm young, fem, pretty, silky, brown body, into tall, good looking white men that are generous, sincere, and like jerking off and cumming all over my ass, having their ball licked and maybe more than one tall guy. You must be white, tall, and generous. **6748.**

Hairy Scat Top
Looking for bottoms in their 40's-50's who like to service dirty top, detective lawyer fantasy, wear a suit at. Like groups 3-4 getting down. **6747.**

Photo: Steve Underhill

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THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 6

Box

Keith Hennessy in a solo performance investigating prison. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$8. New Langston Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Coming Out Negative II

Community forum by INVENTION. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Dorothy's Room

Rebecca Bollinger's installation reconstructs the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel. With "Fifteen Minute Fix" by Malik Johnson, "ATTENTION" by Lyla Rye. Reception tonight, 6pm. Wed.-Sat. thru 11/4. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

His & Hers

Contributors to anthologies of new fiction by gay & lesbian writers read, free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. 510-599-9184.

It's a Wonderful Lie!

Erica Essner Performance Co-Op presents dancetheater works, including Talk Show and Tango This! 8pm. \$12.50-14.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

The Kinsey Sicks

Dragapella beautyshop quartet. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/8. \$12. Tonight at 8:10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Sum of Us

David Stevens' play: a widower father and a gay son. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. thru 10/7. \$12-14. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Utility Beast

Hard-edged texts and lush solo performance by Stanya Kahn. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$10. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Very Warm For May

Lost musical produced by 42nd Street Moon, part of Hammerstein and Hart Festival. Fri.-Sun. thru 10/8, call for times. \$15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Lea Wolf

Evening of dances. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 10/14. \$10. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Women's Celebration of Life

Performances, music, soup, snacks, Eagle fan blessing, benefits healing of a native woman elder. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$5-10. Build, 483 Guerrero. 863-3041.

You & You & You

One-Acts about gay men: *West Hollywood Affair* by Guillermo Reyes, *Touch* by David Demchuk, *Him* by Dean Backus, and *Sexual Irregularities* by Brad Erickson. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/7, call for times. \$12-18. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Saturday 7

AIDS Is a Drag

Drag and costume sale, benefits SF Center for Living. Sat. & Sun. 4:05-4:18th St. 824-4395.

Bay Bash

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders of African Descent and friends, BBQ in Log Cabin Meadow, Presidio, 12-5pm, \$10-12; evening bash, Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, 8pm, \$12-15. 922-5156.

Beer Bust

Supervisor Tom Ammann emcees, SF Gay Men's Chorus performs, raffle. Benefits NAMES Project. \$6. 8pm. SF Eagle, 398 12th St.

Bon Voyage

"An International Sampler" from premier vocal ensemble Chanticleer. \$19-26. 8pm. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore. 392-4400.

Chaotic Fairy Tales

Charles Herman-Wurmfeld's *Fanci's Persuasion* and Todd Haynes' *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 922 Valencia. 824-3890.



Photo: Ken Friedman

Sunday

Patsy Cline, one of the performers at **Merkinstock**, booked at the "Tranny" Theatre.

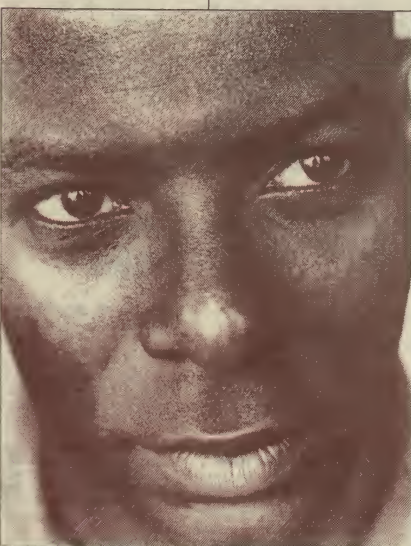


Photo: Jackie Wey

Saturday

The Bay Area's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender African Descent community kicks off **Bay Bash** with a BBQ at Log Cabin Meadow in the Presidio.

Gay Comedy Night

Danny Williams, Shan Carr, Hank Donat. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Gender Faire

Transgendered people and interested parties welcome at ETVC's annual fair. 12-5pm. Jelly's Dance Cafe, Pier 50, SF.

A Hole in the World

Deborah Slater & Co. use ritual, storytelling, Klesmer and jazz music to explore the experience of a loved one dying. Thurs.-Sat. thru 10/21. \$12. 8pm. 450 Geary Studio Theater. 673-1172.

A Litany for Survival

"The Life and Work of Audre Lorde," black lesbian poet. \$11. Film 7pm, reception afterwards. Cole Hall, UCSF, 505 Parnassus. 476-1638.

Momentum

Scott Wells & Dancers in exciting, physical dance. Sat. & Sun. \$12.50-14.50. 8pm. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Open Studios

Artists open their workspaces North/West of Market including Sunset, Russian Hill, North Beach. Sat. & Sun. 11am-6pm. 861-9838.

SEXART 4

30 photographers exploring sex, sexuality and eroticism. \$2. Thru 10/15, call for times. Mark I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom. 292-3223.

Sunday 8

Tuffy Eldridge

Presents her rock musical with Christa Hillhouse, bassist from 4 Non-Blondes. \$6. 6pm. GB Ratto's, 821 Washington. 282-0625.

GAWK Writers Workshop

Gay/bi writers of fiction, poetry, drama, journalism and performance. 2:30pm. Call for location. 731-2424.

Lallo- Get a Life

Lallo in a one-woman show: a psychic child who couldn't be shut up. \$12. 3pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Merkinstock

Klubstututa presents Patsy Cline, Elvis Herselvis, Alexis Miranda, Miss X, many others, benefits AEF, Immune Enhancement Project, Roberta Achtenberg. \$5-15. 9pm. Tranny Theatre, 314 11th St. 331-9595 x300.

PFLAG

Support group, 2pm; Kevin Gogin speaks about Support Services Program for gay, lesbian, bi youth, 3pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Monday 9

Day Dreams

Photographs of surreal reverie by Ken Leaf, thru Oct. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Karen Ripley. Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Quiz Bang

Gay trivia game show, every Mon. \$10. 8pm. Cable Car

Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

The Sensual Nude

Rick Herold paintings on vinyl and works on paper of the male figure and erotica. Thru 10/15. 355 Bryant, Loft 110. 284-0567.

Tuesday 10

Acquainted with the Night

NYC photographer Lynn Saville's prints of nighttime scenes, thru 11/10. Downstairs Gallery, UC Extension Center, 55 Laguna. 252-5221.

Castro Folkdancers

Exhibition celebrates 25 years of Galeria de la Raza (thru 12/10). \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

A Defiant Legacy

Exhibition celebrates 25 years of Galeria de la Raza (thru 12/10). \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Willem de Kooning

"The Late Paintings, The 1980s" thru 1/7. SFMOMA,

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10/29;



Photo: Nita Winter

▲ Saturday

Vocal ensemble **Chanticleer** performs "Bon Voyage: An International Sampler" at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Go Figure

Figurative drawings, paintings, photographs and sculpture. Tues.-Sat. thru 10/15. Mulligan-Shanoski Gallery, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Peter Max

Recent paintings and graphics. Thru 10/23. Circle Gallery, 140 Maiden Lane. 989-2100.

Michael McDowell, Masakazu Kusakabe

Recent paintings by McDowell, recent ceramics by Kusakabe, thru 10/18. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Out in All Directions

"The Almanac of Gay and Lesbian America" editors read, free. 7:30pm. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965.

Report from Beijing

Deborah James and Rachel Rosenbloom give slide show and report on Fourth World Conference on Women in China, free. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

SF Winds of Freedom

Seated version of the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performs free. 8:15pm. Bethany Methodist, 1268 Sanchez. 554-0402.

Salivation

Art by Mark Huckabay, Kevin Leeper, Nelson and Christ in a Bucking ham, curated by Lex Lonehood. By appointment thru 10/13. Fig. 8, 350 Brannan. 972-8090.

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me

TheatreWorks presents Frank McGuinness' drama: hostages in the Middle East. Tues.-Sun. at various times thru 10/15. \$19-28. Mountain View Center for the Perf. Arts, Castro & Mercy. 903-6000.

Spectacle

Paintings of dreamlike events by Dave Hidalgo. Thru 10/18. Cowboys & Angels, 207 Powell. 362-8516.

State Fair

Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, starring John Davidson, Tues.-Sun. thru 10/29; call for times. \$15-55.

Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 474-3800.

Wednesday 11

Bistro Shmistro

Drew Letchworth and John Gilkey create a culinary cabaret playground. Wed.-Sat. thru 10/14. \$18-34. Icon Byte Bar & Grill, 299 9th St. 861-BYTE.

Calm, Cool and Collected

Exhibition of works by Timothy B. Buckwalter and Vinnie Angel. Wed.-Sat. thru 10/28. Four Walls, 3160 A 16th St. 626-8515.

Dog Opera

Stephanie Hunt and Brian Thorntson are best friends in Constance Congdon's sexy comedy. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/29. \$17-23. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Facing Eden

"100 Years of Landscape Art in the Bay Area" Wed.-Sun. thru 11/26. \$5. deYoung

Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Gay Skate

Rink full of queers on roller-skates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. 1-800-473-8658.

Jewels of Wheat

"The History and Tradition of Pasta" opens. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm thru 12/31. \$2. Museo Italo-Americano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Millennium Coming

"The New Degenerate Art Show" curated by Michelle Rollman and Chris Komater, opens tonight, 7pm. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 346-4063.

Agustin Pozo

Mixed media assemblages. Thru 11/30, call for times, at Bucheon Gallery on Vallejo, 2537 Vallejo. 863-2891.

The Talking Cure

Suzi Berger in her new one-woman comedy, opening

night benefits Project Open Hand. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/29. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Tracing Cultures

Cultural migration and change through photography. Thru 11/5. \$4. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Thursday 12

David Berg, Nina Glaser

New photographs by Glaser, "Buttes and Plains: Paintings" by Berg. Tues.-Sat. thru 10/17. Morpho Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 8pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Dolls and Puppets

Creations by Brett Love, Timothy Cummings, Michelle Rollman, others. Thurs.-Sat. thru 10/14. Collision, 417 14th St. 431-4074.

Hole

Group show with Arthur Tress, Robin Lasser, Rudy Lemcke, others, curated by Richard Titus. Thru 11/28. Artificial Gallery, 323 Noe.

99% Squad

Dance/theater/ comedy troupe Squad premieres "Good Cooks and Hard Lessons." Thurs.-Sat. thru 10/21. \$10. 8pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Open Studios

Citywide artists' studio tour, directory exhibition. Thru 10/29. SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan. 861-9838.

Roots of Socialist Feminism

Radical Women discussion. Dinner, \$5. 6:45pm. Meeting. 7:30pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia. 864-1278.

23 Años Atras

Paintings by Mexico City artist Carlos Jaurena. Thru 10/22. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Women With Balls

Showcase for women stand-up comics, every Thurs. 8pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

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Chicken Fontina — breast of chicken sauteed with white wine, tomatoes, garlic cream, served over fettucini.....8.95

Corn-Crusted Red Snapper with cajun hollandaise.....8.95

Grilled Pork Chops with apple-raisin dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy.....9.25

Grilled N.Y. Pepper Steak with fettucini alfredo.....12.95

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Herbst Theatre, San Francisco



FAYE DUNAWAY

In Conversation with Edward Guthmann
Wed., November 8 — 8 pm
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

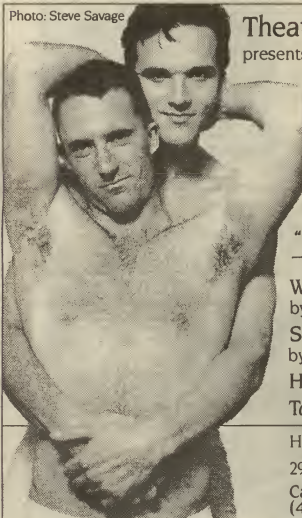


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Photo: Steve Savage



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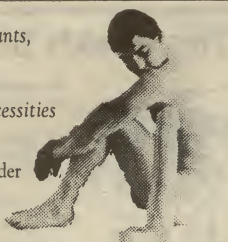
▲ Tuesday

"Rockefeller Center," part of **Acquainted with the Night**, an exhibition of nighttime photography by Lynn Saville at Downstairs Gallery, UC Extension Center

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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

New York Eagle Celebrates 25; Sash Queens on the Rampage

Some of you already know that the original Eagle bar is The New York Eagle. Old-timers will remember when it was called The Eagle's Nest. Next weekend (Oct. 6-9) this granddaddy of leather bars celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

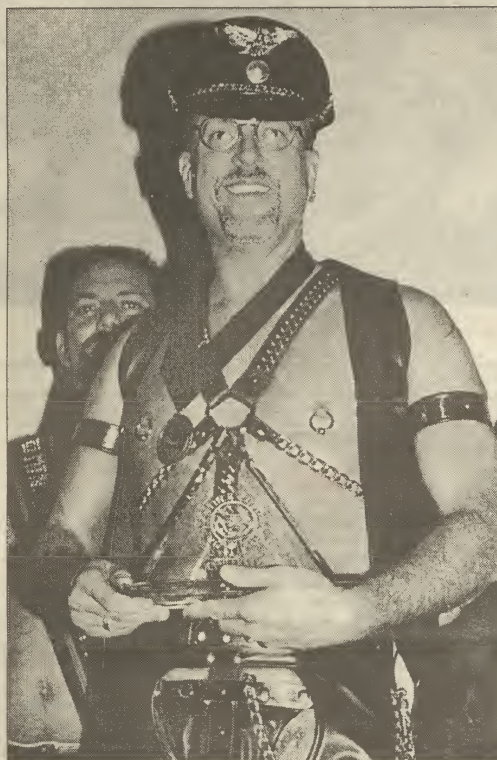
Leather bars in the Big Apple, as elsewhere, have come and gone. Some have been successful for a reasonable length of time, while others have barely made a dent in the leather zone of Manhattan. But The New York Eagle and Jack Modica (this institution's famous manager) are still there and going strong.

You know, of course, that Eagle bars around the world are not affiliated with each other in any way. Some of them started out as leather bars, but the sweater/sneaker/disco look ruined them. So, out there in the provinces you can't always be sure it's a leather bar just because it's called The Eagle.

New York's Eagle bar, though, is still a genuine leather bar. Part of the weekend-long celebration will be the naming of Mr. NY Eagle Leather 1995-96 on Saturday night, Oct. 7. Last year's winner, Gerald "Squeaky" LeGault, will sash his successor that night and, of course, the winner will compete at IML.

Congratulations to Jack Modica and the staff of the New York Eagle. And best wishes for success in the future. I understand New York is planning a huge sports arena in the neighborhood, so the Eagle may have to move to new quarters. On the other hand, the DC-Eagle moved not once, but twice, and is still the mainstay leather bar in that town. So, if you're in New York, in the vicinity of 142 Eleventh Ave. @ 21st, drop in and participate in this historic event!

Now that Leather Pride Week, the Mr. Drummer contest, the Folsom Street Fair, and the Disastro Street Fair are over, life



Mr. Leather Colorado Craig Mercer won his title at the Bluebird Theatre in Denver in August. He's looking forward to his visit to Chicago in May.

has resumed its leisurely pace, at least in these parts. But people with sash rash fever are out there scrambling for that gold medal, that leather sash or vest emblazoned with a title. The leather intrepid never quit!

Larry Everett, International Mr. Leather '95, is just settling in with his title and already there are candidates hoping to succeed him in May 1996, including one right in his own home town.

While no one gave me the exact date of the contest in Tulsa, Mr. Tulsa Leather 1995-96, Arlen Spinter, has already been selected, and is he a stunner, or what? He's wheelchair bound, but managed to win a recent bare chest contest in Washington, D.C. To make it even more interesting, I have been told that a blind leatherman is planning to compete in Chicago next May! And the first International Mr. Deaf Leather, Philip Rubin, has emphatically stated that several deaf leathermen will compete at IML.

Last month at Southern Decadence in Atlanta, the Lords of Leather picked their Mr. Louisiana Leather, a 36-year-old stud named "Mitch," who succeeded John Taylor, Mr. Louisiana Leather 1994. Mr. Mitch declined to give his last name.

And again in mid-September, Nite Hawk Productions staged the Mr. Leather Colorado contest in Denver's newly-renovated Bluebird Theatre. Craig Mercer competed against one contestant to win the title. He will compete at IML in Chicago next May.

This weekend (Oct. 7-9), Sam Cisneros, Mr. Fresno Leather, sashes his successor, the climax of a three-day leatherfest. Most of

Continued on page 47



Mr. National Leather Association International Don Bastian (R.) of Calgary, Alberta, will sash his successor during the NLA's Living in Leather in Portland, OR, this weekend, Oct. 5-9. He's shown here with Intl. Mr. Drummer David Walker after his victory on Sept. 23.

Eventures in Leather

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Big Basket Contest at The Edge and beer bust (\$6), benefiting the AEF. Stuff your shorts and win \$100. The fun starts at 2000, contest at 2200.

Weekend, Oct. 5-8

The National Leather Association's Living in Leather "X-travaganza" at the Portland (Ore.) Conference Center. Reserve your room at the Mark Spencer Hotel (800) 554-6440. At this point in time, fees are \$165 members/\$175 non-members, but the price includes meals and scads of activities. Call (713) 527-9666, Box 4. If you want a vendor booth, phone or fax The Hun at (503) 285-9670.

American Uniform Association's "International Review 18" (also in Portland), with boots, breeches, cuffs, hoses (rubber and otherwise) galore, plus a whole weekend of activities including clipper, shaving and play parties, uniform shopping at discount, Officer's Mess dinner, buffet brunch on Sunday, paintball game, stragglers brunch and survivors dinner on Monday.

Call Andy Mangels at (503) 228-6935 between 1100 and 2000 for more details.

For \$45/members, \$70/non-members, you can join the Pegasus MOC's "Find the Lost Coast" weekend run to Northern California sites. All details are available by calling "Jay" at 861-2872.

Mr. Fresno Leather Sam Cisneros steps aside for his successor at Fresno's Leatherfest, with most of the action at the Red Lantern and the contest at The Barn. Call (209) 225-1124 for details. In Utica, N.Y., Randy Calkins, Mr. Upstate New York Leather '94, sashes his successor at the Utica Tri's annual leather weekend. In Minneapolis, Mr. Minnesota Leather will be chosen; last year's winner dropped out early, so Steve Lenius will do the honors. In Montreal, the Bad Boys Club's Black & Blue Party is at the Olympic Stadium in conjunction with the International Gay Swimming Competition. Call (514) 875-7026 for details.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Tom Ammiano and the Gay Men's Chorus will entertain at the Eagle for The NAMES Project's \$6 beer bust at 2000. With SF leather daddies and Skeeter Wildman selling raffle

tickets from 2000 to 2300.

Sunday, Oct. 8

The Phoenix Uniform Club hosts the Eagle beer bust from 1500 to 1800 with a "Salute to the Troops." With food and contest for best tattoos, raffle and prizes. The PUC always does a good job!

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Golden Gate Guards beer bust (\$6) at the Eagle tonight from 2000 to 2300. Slurp it up!

Weekend, Oct. 13-15

The Second Annual Queer Biker Invasion of Death Valley (Zabriskie Point). No fee, no pins, no T-shirts, no dinners, no sashes, no rashes. Just the love of riding and celebrating queer "bikerness." The thundering herd leaves Friday, Oct. 13. Call 563-6100; fax 563-6129; or write Death Valley Run, 1726 Fillmore St., SF, CA 94115.

Weekend, Oct. 19-22

San Jose Leatherfest and Mr./Ms. San Jose Leather contest. Call (408) 277-0466. In Washington, D.C., American Leather Man/Woman/Boy/Cowboy contests. Call (202) 332-3902. ▼

Marcus

Continued from page 46

the action will be at the Red Lantern, but the contest is at The Barn. We thank the Yosemite Chapter of the Knights of Malta for sponsoring this event. Also, in Utica, NY, the Utica Tri's MC celebrate their anniversary this weekend by naming Mr. Upstate New York. Randy Calkins won the title last year.

Locally, expect Mr. San Francisco Leather '96 to be chosen in Mid-April. As for the San Jose Leatherfest, which is later this month (Oct. 19-22), the fax I got said, "This year, the titles of Mr./Ms. San Jose Leather and Mr./Ms. Southbay Leather will be combined during the Saturday

night (Oct. 21) main event." I guess someone finally wrested the Ms. San Jose Leather title away from whomever claimed it, and how sweet it is that "Better Together" is finally working in its own birthplace.

The San Jose Leatherfest is, unfortunately, the same weekend as the American Leather Man/Woman/Cowboy contests in Washington, D.C. (the winners will not compete at IML or IML). But in San Jose, the organizers have planned "an appreciation night" that will include "art and vendor shows, fantasy shows and motorcycle runs." They're calling this an "E-ticket event," whatever that means. Call (408) 277-0456 for tickets and info.

In January (Martin Luther King weekend), the Centaur MC will hold its Leather Weekend and the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest in Washington D.C. This is always a great (and cheap! - only \$50) weekend, in spite of the cold weather; last year, however, a fluke of nature gave us summer weather in winter.

The new year should prove interesting. Of course, Chicago is always a great place to visit - and you know I will!

DOT, DOT, DOT, DISH

Bars around town noticed a considerable drop in Cuervo Gold sales last weekend, but it only makes sense what with the Three Amigos (Andy Rose, Don Tse and Omar Moseley) away on their club's (Golden Gate Guards MC) weekend run to Camp Mendocino. Their absence triggered the biggest tequila recession in these parts in recent memory.

Word around town is that I am boycotting the newly reopened Powerhouse Bar! How did this lie ever get started? The truth is - and I've been told as much by several people - I am not welcome in that bar by the manager and the owner. Why go where you're not wanted?

Question: Who is the leather man in San Francisco who continually insists on asking for free tickets for himself and his date/boy/slave/companion to leather events? The lecherous one should know that it's tacky to put producers of these events in the



Photo: Frank Nowicki

The pride of Louisiana, chosen last month during Southern Decadence weekend, Mr. Louisiana Leather '95, Mitch. He'll compete at IML next May.

unpleasant position of always having to say no.

Question: What prominent leather daddy's boy (not a titled one, just a regular daddy's boy) was out last Friday night without his daddy, and was so taken with the Eagle's Nick Varetakis that when ordering a beer he blurted: "Can I go home with you?, er, uh, Can I have a Rolling Rock please?"

Great news at my deadline: Harvey Gantt, who ran and lost to Jesse Helms in North Carolina for the U.S. Senate, is running again and the campaign needs financial help: Mail your contribution to Harvey Gantt for U.S. Senate, 1000 N. Tyrone St., Suite 4200, Charlotte, NC 28202. Do it today! ▼



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Photo: Vern Stewart

Chosen earlier this year, Arlen Spinter is Mr. Tulsa Leather '95. His eye is on the prize in Chicago next May. He lives in the same town as the current IML, Larry Everett.

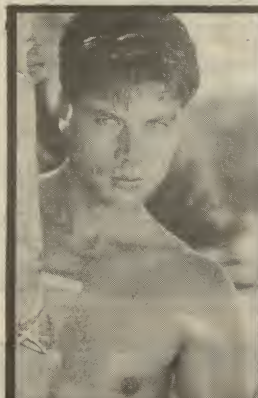
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INTERVIEW

An Interview with *Fruit* Editor
Anne-christine d'Adesky

Queer Aesthetic Bears Fruit

by Erin Blackwell

Why has activist/journalist Anne-christine d'Adesky been neglecting the novella she started upon publication last year of her first novel, *Under the Bone*? The 37-year-old senior editor at *Out* magazine and co-founder of the Lesbian Avengers is nowadays "more intensively involved in AIDS research" than ever before, but what's really been eating into her time is *Fruit*.

Five thousand copies of issue number one of the innovative queer quarterly hit selected newsstands a month ago. *Fruit*, an arty looking literary journal and/or conceptual art magazine, aims to be a "spontaneous vehicle" for what politically-minded creative types and/or arty activists are feeling and/or thinking about. Accommodating work in a variety of media, the post-post-modern vehicle itself morphs from a magazine to a gallery to a World Wide Web site.

The premier issue was by invitation only. Playwright Tony Kushner, author Sarah Schulman, poet Eileen Myles and author Robert Glück were among the participants.

Fall 1995 (upcoming) is half by invitation, half by open sub-



Photo: Sue Schaffner

Anne-christine d'Adesky

mission. Photographer Nan Goldin, painter Ross Bleckner, author Patricia Powell and filmmaker Cecilia Dougherty have already agreed to express themselves on the theme of "soil" (as in

earth or stain). The third issue will be on diaries.

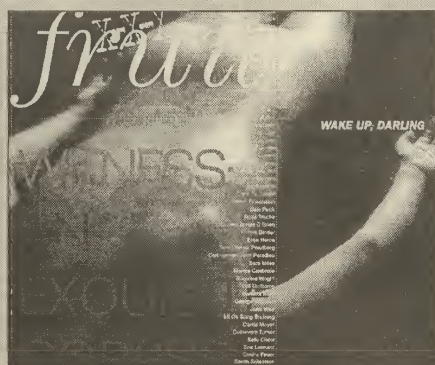
Idea Girl d'Adesky is listed first on a modest masthead that includes Artistic Direction by Vincent W. Gagliostro, Top Girl Marisa Cardinale, Art Directors at large Avram Finkelstein and George Wittman, and intern Gil Ruckenstein. These anti-hierarchical roles are designed for maximum fluidity. Outside their primary area of expertise, everyone pitches in on the humblest of tasks.

Speaking over the phone from New York, d'Adesky stressed two things. "We need financial support," she said. "And I want to encourage people out there to push themselves to make new work, to get involved, so this can be something that they say, 'Oh, yeah, I'm a part of *Fruit*.'"

EB: Where did you get the idea to start a magazine?

Ad'A: When I was at Outwrite

Continued on next page



Bitter Fruit

Fruit
Witness: An Exquisite Corpse; Summer 1995, \$7

The creative folks behind the new queer journal *Fruit* have modeled their first issue after the Victorian parlor game of "Exquisite Corpse": for inspiration they gave writers and artists one line each from the Defense's opening statement in the (by now mythic) O.J. trial. Most contributors used their snippet as a jumping-off place, but several turned in meditations on the trial-of-the-century itself.

For example, SF author Bob Glück penned an essay which ruminates on the role of rumor and gossip in the murder case. "It's interesting to me that I assumed Ronald Goldman was gay from the beginning. Why? That he was a waiter? An actor? That he was returning Nicole's sunglasses?" To NYC poet Eileen Myles, justice is "a grey 19th-century word, covered with bird shit, standing in the park." And Laurie Weeks is the wit responsible for *The Secret Diaries of Paula Barbieri*—one tidbit will have to suffice: "Dear Diary, If that fucking Faye Resnick thinks for one minute that I don't know what she's up to ... Everyone in Hollywood knows she is an enormous Lesbian plus on drugs. ... Also, is she black or white or WHAT?! I'm not prejudiced but it just bugs me."

"Idea Girl" Anne-christine d'Adesky and staff have corralled some bright talents for their interdisciplinary, designed-within-an-inch-of-your-life glossy mag, and many of them have another contemporary tragedy on their mind: as Avram Finkelstein reminds, "If there is a Trial of the Century, it is AIDS." Tony Kushner's prayer for a cure is heartfelt and moving. Bill Jacobson's photographs of men out of focus are typically haunting. And Bill Dobbs and Sara Miles both document the on-going war on queer sex. Miles presents, verbatim, notes from Health Dept. investigations which targeted NYC queer sex clubs.

Fruit is juicy. *Fruit* is full of overripe imagery, seeds for thought, at least one hard pit. The corpses it invokes, however, are far removed from aesthetic games. Nothing in the journal tops the opening image of the fatal incisions slashed through the necks of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Rest in peace, innocents: your long nightmare is finally over. ▼—Roberto Friedman

Fruit

Continued from page 48

[the lesbian and gay writers' conference], I was looking around at what was available. I went to a session with a lot of the writers and journalists I know. People were really unhappy with what they were seeing in the gay press. I work as an editor at *Out*, and I'm happy. We're an important source of information and commentary on a lot of things, but it is a consumer-oriented magazine, which most of the gay press has become. It doesn't take an editorialized political stance. People have this emotion, this concern — not just anger, but this need to talk more openly about things they were feeling. They weren't finding the venue.

So that's where you come in.

My goal was to make something that would encourage people to make work, and to respond. That remains my goal. The more people who take it on and decide it's going to be a forum for them, the better. It's not about profit. It's a non-profit thing. We're not going to make any money. I'm sure if we wanted to, we could, but that's not at all what it's about.

Contemporary art gave us "the museum without walls." Fruit seems to be the magazine without covers.

We're calling it a multimedia magazine because we're asking people who work in different mediums to do work. The printed page is a particular medium, with its limitations. We had a small gallery exhibit here, for the visual work [paintings, photographs and videos]. And we're now working with the Whitney Museum to put the entire magazine on a website. What we're going to do with that

is not reproduce the magazine but ... to take people, to make them think, and to make these connections, and to let them make their own comments. We want people to have an opportunity to tell us what they're witnessing. It will become an open archive for as long as people want to contribute to it. The cyber option allows for a much wider community. I like the idea of its being very open and owned by everyone.

Is Fruit a direct result of the e-mail revolution?

E-mail is just a faster way of faxing. Before we could fax each other, we were calling each other on the phone. Before that, we were writing letters. It's all a desire to communicate. A way to comment without having to think about something for six months. To just sort of say, "Oh, my God! What's going on? We've got to get this out." That's the energy you find in a lot of political activism in our community. That's how artists feel. They're doing this because they feel compelled to transform the feelings or thoughts they have into something that reflects what they're going through.

The things that have moved me have that combination of ideas and passion and really caring. Not retreating into a silence because there isn't a place in which to say something. We still need to say something. We can't just let this go by. Let's turn it around. Let's take it apart. Let's say what we're feeling about it all.

So the structure of the magazine is just a reflection of the available technology?

I don't just read magazines or books. I go to the movies. I listen to music. I get e-mail every day. I'm a multimedia person and I think most people are. I don't think — not just in the lesbian and

gay community, but generally — we present many options for people to hear from people working in all these different things at once. It tends to be pretty segregated. People who read literary journals don't look at computer magazines, and activists don't necessarily go to museums.

And a lot of artists stay away from politics.

Most writing in political journals tends to be very dogmatic and prescriptive, even when it's analytical. It doesn't tend to be that creative. Or allow for the kind of questioning or ambivalence or multiple contradictions of feelings and passions that most of us have about any given political issue or analysis. I don't read most political journals. They're utterly boring. And yet I'm a very socially, politically conscious person. I care a lot about what's happening. I care equally about the refusal to make any reference to homosexuality in the American public education system as I do about the return of nationalism and genocide in Bosnia.

You're able to make the connections.

These things are related. They're about narrow ways of thinking and being. How they affect me is really difficult to dissect, but it's not separate — it's multiple. By approaching it on a creative level, you get a more intimate, reflective, deep response than from reading the newspapers or looking at television images. People are engaged on a very deep, personal level, but there's very few places for them to express that. There's not any kind of consistent public or community dialogue. Very rarely is there even a private dialogue for a lot of people.

That lack of dialogue is precisely what gets a lot of people down.

Even though this is a time many people would think of as bad, in that a lot of bad things are happening, depending on where you are on the planet in any point in history, things are bad or good. What you do with them is the

more important thing. This time is also very ripe. It sharpens the divisions between people. It makes you see what side you're on. You can transform it. That's always where you see the most interesting production of culture, ideas, and things that advance. ▼

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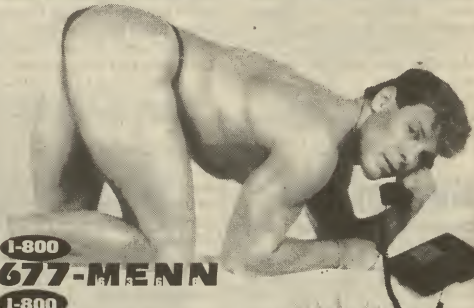
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SWEET LIPS

Swallow's Swank Soiree

The Swallow at 1750 Polk Street will be chirping a happy tune when it celebrates its eighth anniversary with a two-day bash, Oct. 7-8. Stuff yourself silly (not you, Greta!) at the fab Dennis Tyler buffet (4-8 p.m.); enjoy some jazz (4:30-7 p.m.); and relax with a master tinkler of the ivories (9 p.m.-1 a.m.). Do come and help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

There's no excuse for missing that morning pick-me-up if you're anywhere in the vicinity of the Giraffe Video Lounge (1131 Polk St.) Kenny (Mon.-Thurs.) and the delectable Little Joe (Fri.-Sun.) throw open (pas throw up!) the doors of this popular establishment at 8 a.m. to the thirsty throngs.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, 3-5 p.m., Kimo's Penthouse at Polk and Pine will be hosting a party in remembrance of Deputy Sheriff John Peters, who died Sept. 5. Jack "Hannah" will do the honors, and a no-host bar (5-7 p.m.) will follow at the Swallow, with sterling piano entertainment by Mr. Bill Delisle.

Bulletin! Bodacious barbecue alert! On Oct. 18, 6-10 p.m., at the Gangway, Chef "No Count" Bill Tolan will be having a Country Hoedown Jamboree. (Please note, Gentle Reader, that's "hoe" not "ho," though ladies of the evening need their red meat, too.) For a \$2 donation, you'll get a BBQ pork



Elegant Greta Grass will be on hand for the fabulous Gangway barbecue on Oct. 16.

rib sandwich, homemade baked beans (don't sit behind Greta!) and salad, plus the lively company of Bobby Pace, Dingy Don, Joey and Mr. John Wise. This event is a fundraiser to help defray the cost of renting a bus for the Widow Norton's (aka Jose Sarria) annual pilgrimage to the Colma graveside of Emperor Norton.

On Oct. 8, 4-8 p.m., Emperor I of the City of Souls, Stanley Boyd, will present the Battle of the Brains at the Embassy Lounge to benefit the Colma Community

Continued on next page

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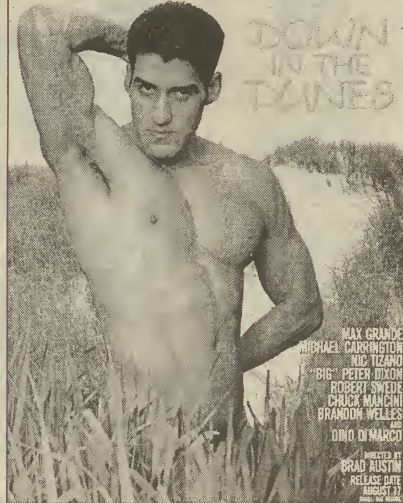
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Tempers Flare as Games Get Rough

by Michelle Brodie

W eek four of the current San Francisco Women's Flag Football season was played under beautiful skies last week at the Polo Field. Things were not so beautiful on the field, however, when Marcellos met IJs. Jules Hales intercepted a Marcellos pass in the first quarter, but IJs couldn't punch it in. In the second quarter, IJs drove the ball to the five-yard line on a Michelle Gil pass to Tasha DeCosta. She then scored on a Gil pass to Tie, bringing the score to 6-0. Marcellos' Andrea James intercepted an IJ pass, but was ejected from the game after starting a fight. Marcellos still managed to take the ball to the ten but it was denied. On the following possession, Marcellos' Angelique Mahan sacked IJs in the end zone for a safety, making the score 6-2. Marcellos then marched the ball and scored on a 10-yard touch down pass from Delphine Jones to Patti Dingle. Final score was 8-6.

In Game Two, the Girlfriends got revenge for last week's tie with Marcellos by taking it out on the Rebels. The very first kick off was a touch down for the Girlfriends. On their next possession, Girlfriends scored on Maureen Bennett's pass to Kim Green, who has really made her presence known this season. The final score was 33-6.

In Game Three, Fear This demolished the Warriors 50-6. The Warriors scored on a 25-yard touch down pass to Michelle Rendleston.

In Game Four, the Cafe blanked the Posse 28-0. The Cafe scored in the first half on a 15-yard touch down pass from Maureen Hogan to Liz Drennan, and on a 20-yard touch down pass from Hogan to Dawn Prince. In the second half, the Cafe scored twice on touch down passes from Hogan to Maria Ramu and Desere.

Next week, we will be off for Columbus Day weekend, but you can catch the action the following Sunday at the Polo Field. For information, call 282-4232. ▼

Sweet Lips

Continued from page 49

Center Playground. Round up two to four people from your favorite bar, club, team, alley, gutter, etc. to compete - \$25 entry fee per team.

Everyone's favorite bovines, The Cows of San Francisco, invite you to a very special tribute to Empress Marlana for her generous support of the Cowboy/Cowgirl Contest on Sunday, Oct. 15, at Marlana's, 488 Hayes St. Kimo will be the guest emcee, and culinary wiz Dennis Tyler will be serving up yet another lavish buffet at 4:30 p.m. (Where does he find the time to cut up all those *légumes*? Inquiring old biddies want to know.) Showtime is at 6 p.m., and all proceeds benefit SF Bear. Right, Ms. Cowgirl Vera?

On Saturday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m., Kimo's will be the site of a celebration of Bruce Harrelson's life. Please do join in.

Postal panic! We need letters

sent to Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-1540 protesting any discontinuation of the AIDS stamp. Write now and complain loudly!

During Portland's coronation extravaganza on Saturday, Oct. 21, the Silverado bar will be having a champagne brunch with Mad Mame from 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a measly \$4, with Thieda as your bartender, glitterin' Goldie as your cocktail waiter and, as special guest bartender, c'est moi, Sweet Lips. Owner Don Sexton and his flawless staff do a magnificent job, so don't miss this fete to end all fetes.

Yes, it's true. After my last suspension for whatever imagined infraction, my shift has been changed. It's now Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. So sashay on down to Kimo's for a morning cocktail. It's been proven that one glance at my puss before noon is the most effective eye-opener known to man! ▼

Enrique Alert



S upergroup Enrique, the band that turned '70s glitz and glam into an art form in the early '90s, will perform at the DNA Lounge October 7 at 10 p.m. Infamous around these parts for their wild choreography and emotionally-charged songs, our favorite '70s kitschsters will play a variety of new and old numbers, including hits "Do it in the Dirt," "Hair Pie" and the disco-inspired "Mechanical Bull." "Enrique-sized" prizes (exercycles and lunch boxes) will be awarded to lucky persons. Saturday's show is in advance of the release of Enrique's debut album *Cut The Cheese*, scheduled for record stores in December. Angel flights and platform shoes are encouraged. 9 p.m. at DNA Lounge, 375 11th St. Call 626-1409 for information. ▼

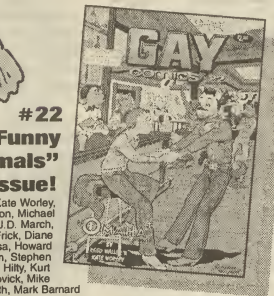
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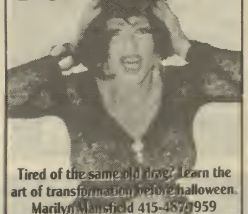
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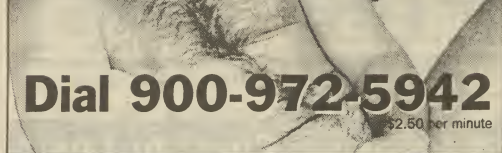
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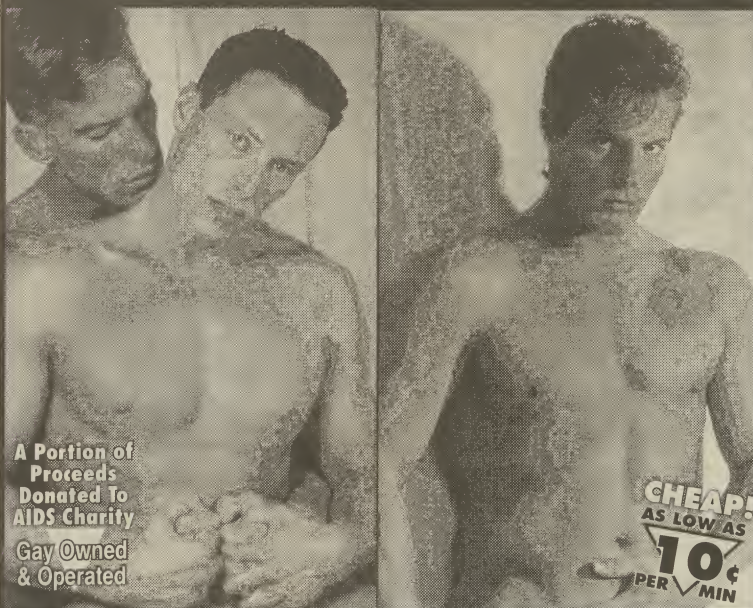
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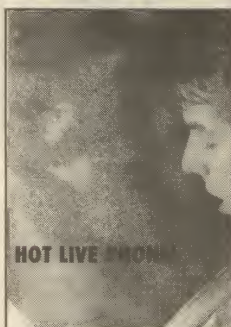
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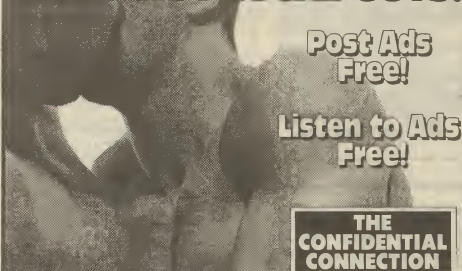
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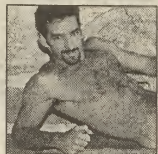
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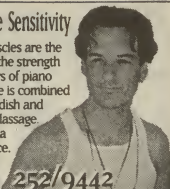
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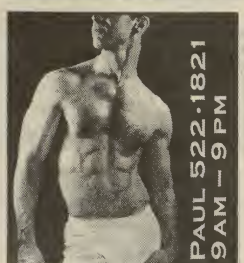
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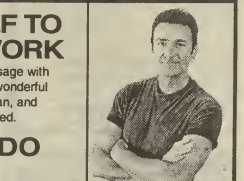
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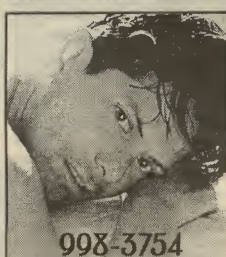
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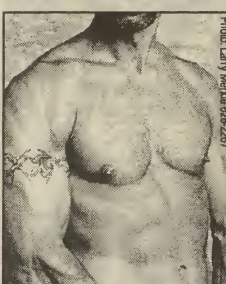
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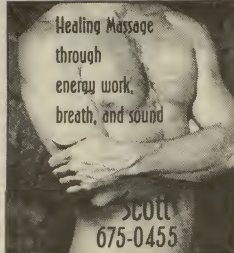
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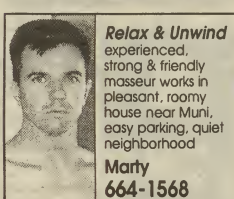
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CARING HANDS
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experienced,
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masseur works in
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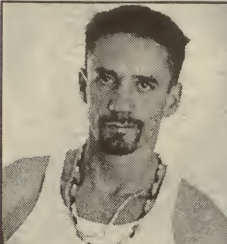
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in the nude.
I am a Norwe-
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Lt. bodybuilder
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handsome
& clean-cut.
Certified.

\$45 in. 24 hrs.

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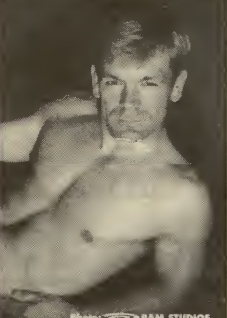
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Br/br/ 5'9" 150# 8" uncult
\$55/ 1hr. \$70/90 min.
Sliding Scale for PWA
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Happy Hour 11 to 5

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Deeply relaxing and very
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I've had excellent training.
Please call for detailed info.
Thank you.

Experience Ecstasy
Excellent Deep Tissue
Massage and Touch
by gifted and attractive masseur
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Full-body, Deep-Tissue,
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by Very Handsome,
31 y/o. Masculine,
Italian Male
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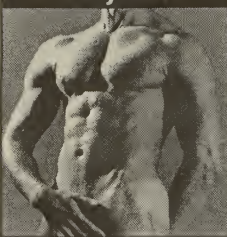
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Looking Men, Four Powerful
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A Two-Man Massage Team
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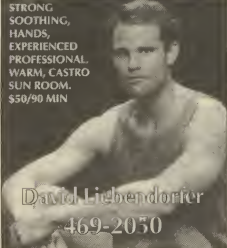

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Especially like small
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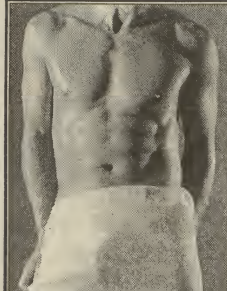
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Deep, Gentle
\$40 in **Jeff**
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35, Bld/Gm Strong
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Complete Relief • 621-7525

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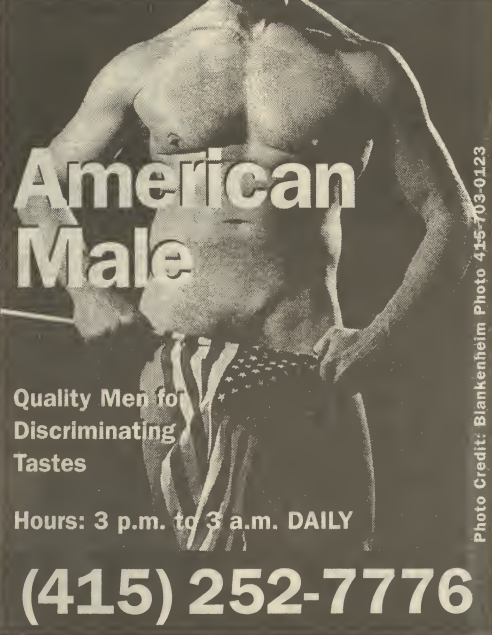
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Quality Men for
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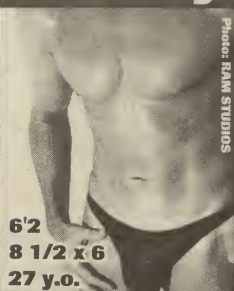
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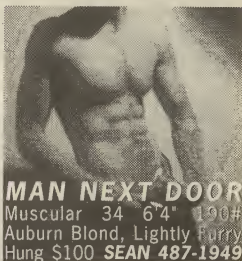
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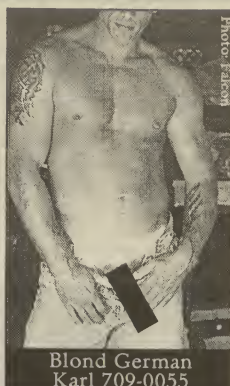
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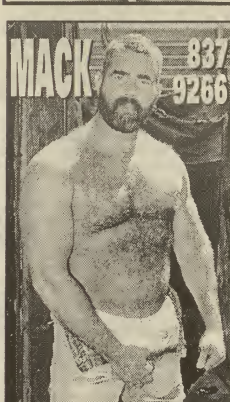
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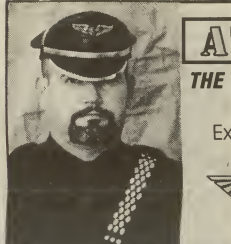


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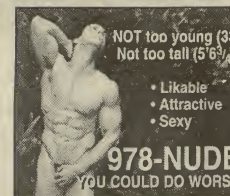


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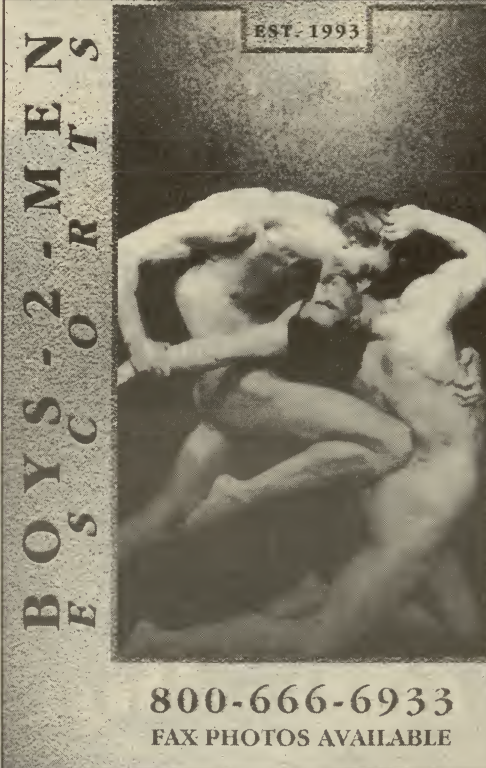


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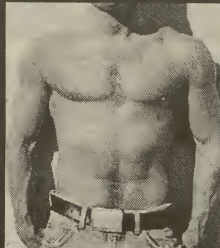
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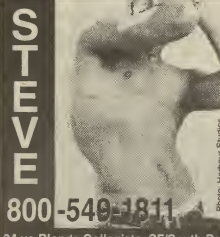
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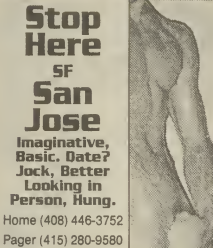
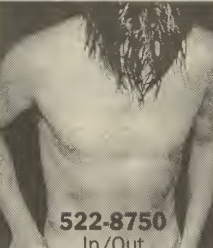
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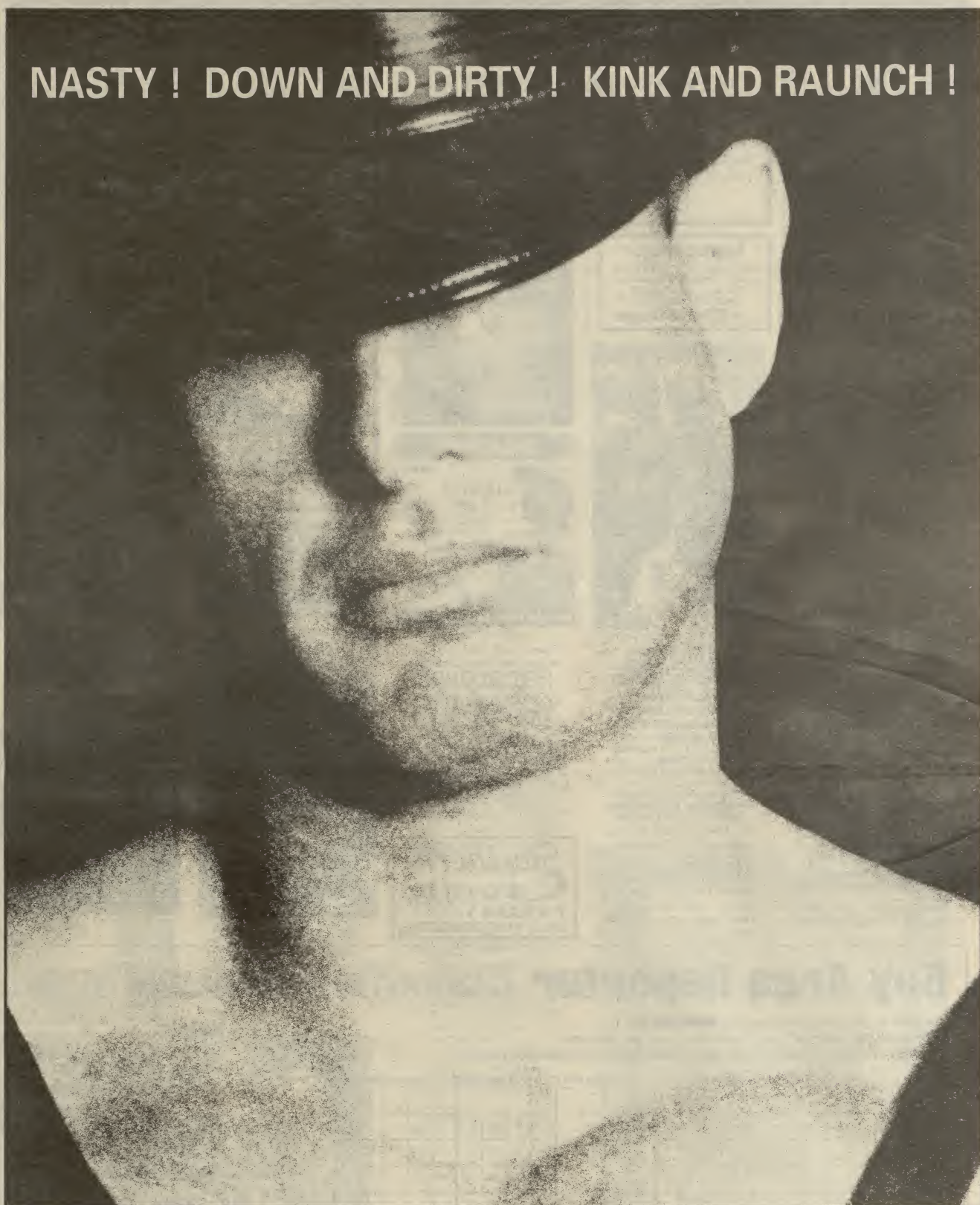
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